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Washtenaw Jewish News
c/o Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
2939 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

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WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

February 2013 Shevat/Adar 5773 Volume XXXVII: Number 5 FREE

Federation Impact Fund addresses isolation, homelessness, bereavement and culture

David Shtulman, special to the WJN

The Federation's Jewish Community Impact Fund has approved five projects totaling $40,000 for 2013. Winners were selected through a combination of community voting and approval by the Impact Fund Selection Committee.

"Celebrating History with Our Stories" is a project of Beth Israel Congregation to create an audio, visual and digital record of Ann Arbor Jewish history. "The project will look back in time to see where we have come from, but will also engage us in a discussion of where we are now, and where we can hope to be in the future. The website in which everything will be captured will engage individuals to contribute current thoughts about life in Jewish Ann Arbor creating a living forum," organizers stated.

Phase One was funded last year and covered the planning process and the engagement of StoryCorps to spend three days in Ann Arbor in April 2013 interviewing community members for the oral history. Phase Two will fund the creation of an interactive website to include the oral histories recorded by StoryCorps, a written history of the community

as well as opportunities for community members to add their own narratives and videos of documenting Jewish life.

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Hillel at Eastern Michigan University and the EMU Jewish Studies Program collaborated to propose "A Journey Through Modern Jewish Music." The project consists of a series of musical events over

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Michigan Israel Business Bridge joins BuyIsrael-Goods campaign

Pamela B. Lippitt, special to the WJN

The Michigan Israel Business Bridge (MIBB) has announced a partnership with the BuyIsraelGoods (BIG) campaign. The link to the BIG site can now be found on the homepage of their website, www.michiganisrael.com. The BIG campaign highlights vendors who carry Israeli products

MICHIGAN ISRAEL BUSINESS BRIDGE

on their store shelves. The Michigan Israel Business Bridge can now help you identify Israeli products available in local retail stores as well as from online retailers.

BIG products can easily be incorporated into one's regular shopping needs, and make great gifts. Collectively, the frequent purchase of Israeli products has a broad and significant impact on the Israeli economy and its citizens.

The Michigan Israel Business Bridge is partnering with the Michigan Chapter of StandWithUs in this effort to bring awareness of merchants carrying Israeli products.

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German scholar to speak at EMU and Holocaust Memorial Center

Martin B. Shichtman, special to the WJN

Eastern Michigan University Jewish Studies will present Dr. Sascha Feuchert, founder and director of the Center for Holocaust Literature at Justus-Liebig University, Giessen (Germany's only Center for Holocaust Literary Studies). Dr. Feuchert is also an honorary professor of German, in the department of World Languages, at EMU. The title of Dr. Feuchert's talk will be "When the Holocaust Did Not Have a Name: Early German Texts on the Camps 1945–1949." The talk will take place on Sunday, February 10, at 7 p.m. in the EMU Student Center Auditorium, 900 Oakwood Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Admission is free.

According to Dr. Feuchert, until recently most scholars have claimed that there were not many texts in the early years after the Holocaust that described the horrors for a German audience. That seemed all too convincing: who would have been the readers? But the fact is that hundreds of texts were published between 1945 and 1949 by victims, although there was a decline after the Federal Republic and the GDR were founded. These texts, however, were rejected by the German audience (even by leftist intellectuals like Wolfgang Borchert) and denounced as "kitsch" or even worse. As a consequence these texts became even more brutal in their horrible details and in design. But even then they were not read by the traumatized German public—but rather completely forgotten. Dr. Feuchert will talk about how these texts give a double evidence: about the horrors of the camps but also of the time when they were published and tried to gain an audience.

Dr. Sascha Feuchert

On Wednesday, February 13, at 7 p.m., Dr. Feuchert will give a free talk at the Holocaust Memoral Center in Farmington Hills. The evening's top will be "The Ghetto Chronicle of Lodz/Litzmannstadt: News Bulletins from a Horrible Life."

The Ghetto Chronicle of Lodz/Litzmannstadt was written on a daily basis between 1941 and 1944 by approximately fifteen people (journalists, historians etc.). It gives the world a view of this "horrible society" (Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski) by people who suffered themselves. Nevertheless this "newspaper without readers," that was clearly designed for people reading it after the horror would be over, was also censored by Rumkowski, Elder of the Jews of the Lodz Ghetto, who wanted to have an influence on his own representation in history (but the chroniclers were able to deceive him) and by the chroniclers themselves, who feared that the Germans would find their work. It is a remarkable and unique source.

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus is located at 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. ■

For more information on both talks, contact jewish.studies@emich.edu.

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Community

JCC's Falafel and Film Night returns

Karen Freedland, special to WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will host a falafel dinner and Israeli cinema night, Saturday, February 2, at 7 p.m. The featured film will be *Jellyfish*, by Shira Geffen, and directed by her husband Etgar Keret, a popular figure in today's Israeli arts community. This film tells the story of three women in Tel Aviv whose intersecting lives paint a complicated portrait of Israeli secular life. Batya, a waitress at weddings, comes across a mute child who seemingly emerges out of the sea. Keren, a bride whose wedding Batya worked at, breaks her leg climbing out of bathroom stall and ruins her dream honeymoon in the process. And Joy, a Filipina domestic, attends to her employer with whom she struggles to communicate. Poetic imagery draws connections between the lives of these women, all of whom find solace in the sea.

Scene from *Jellyfish*

Jellyfish was the winner of the 2007 Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, the Official Selection at the 2008 Toronto Film Festival, and the Official Selection at the 2008 Telluride Film Festival.

The cost is $10 for JCC members and $15 for non-members. There will be dessert and discussion after the film. Reservations are required. For more information or to RSVP, contact Karen Freedland at 971-0990 or karenfreedland@jccfed.org.

Health and fitness at the JCC

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor holds a variety of fitness classes for all activity levels. Healthy bodies and lifestyles promote healthy minds and spirits. The JCC serves everyone—people of all ages and physical abilities—in a friendly and approachable environment. JCC health professionals are highly trained and motivated to assist and encourage in meeting fitness goals. Classes include callanetics, Zumba, Energy Exercise, drop-in volleyball and basketball, and Israeli dancing. For more information, visit www.jccannarbor.org or call 971-0990.

Women's Self-Defense Workshop set for February 3

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will be hosting a Women's Self-Defense Workshop on Sunday, February 3, from noon–2 p.m.

"Shalom Gever," Peaceful Warrior Martial Arts for Health, Fitness and Self-defense, is an approach to martial arts that combines the best of internal and external energy and strength conditioning. This class will help students who want to learn how to be fit for everyday life, while learning to deal with difficult circumstances that may appear. These workshops will empower participants with exercises and scenarios of "what to do when" practical applications.

Classes are led by Mark Marshall, who holds black belt rank in Tae Kwon Do and Grand Master rank in Kyusho Jitsu, and, Peter K. Gluck, PhD, who holds black belt rank in Chung Do Kwan Tae Kwon Do, Kyusho Jujitsu, and Kiai Jitsu.

Cost for the class is $20 for JCC Members and $30 for non-members. Participants should dress in comfortable, athletic clothes. For more information or to register, contact Karen Freedland at 971-0990 or karenfreeland@jccfed.org.

Michigan Israel Bridge, continued from page 1

About Michigan Israel Business Bridge

The Michigan Israel Business Bridge is a non-profit, membership-based, 501(c)(6) "connector" organization dedicated to promoting business partnerships between Michigan and Israel. The organization facilitates business and investment opportunities between Michigan and Israel for their mutual economic benefit. Israel has over 3,000 companies centered on life sciences, homeland security, alternative energy, water technology and agro-technology, with more engineers and scientists per capita than any other country. MIBB was co-founded in 2007 by Chuck Newman and Susan Herman, with the support of business people of Michigan. For more information, visit www.michiganisrael.com.

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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The Washtenaw Jewish News is a free and independent newspaper. It is published monthly, with the exception of January and July. It is registered as a Non-profit Michigan Corporation. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of its editors or staff

Member of
American Jewish Press Association

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Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor at WJN.editor@gmail.com. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

Circulation: 5,000
Subscriptions:
$12 bulk rate inside Washtenaw County
$18 first-class subscription

The deadline for the March 2013 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Friday, February 8.
Publication date: Wednesday, February 27
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

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Course asks, "Are you an ethical person?"

Mendel Sirota, special to the WJN

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will present "Living with Integrity: Navigating Everyday Ethical Dilemmas," the institute's new six-session winter 2013 course that will begin on February 5.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein of Ann Arbor Chabad House will conduct the six sessions on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. at the Chabad House, and Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

"There's a lot of talk about ethics for government and big corporations, but almost every day we confront complex ethical decisions in our own relationships," said Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's headquarters in Brooklyn. "From nanny cams to our responsibilities to our parents, "Living with Integrity" will provide a framework for making balanced decisions for ourselves and for the people we care about."

Looking at real-life scenarios, "Living with Integrity" challenges students to articulate their own opinions, while providing practical Talmudic wisdom to help them navigate through life's inevitable ethical challenges. This course will not only provide the tools to make appropriate decisions, it will also enhance participants' interaction with family and friends.

Like all previous JLI programs, "Living with Integrity" is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular congregation.

Interested students may call 995-3276 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Ann Arbor in conjunction with the Chabad House.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 350 U.S. cities and in many foreign locations, More than 260,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998. ■

Klezmer at The Ark on February 15

WJN *staff writer*

Klezmer Guy is a neo-beatnik/nudnik mash-up of music, comedy, and prose. "It's as if Mickey Katz hosted "This American Life!" says the listing on The Ark website.

Bert Stratton and Alan Douglas

Gerald Ross

Hop in the Ford Tsuris for a clutch-popping trip through the states of klezmer, Yiddish swing, Tin Pan Alley and spoken word. On Friday, February 15, at 8 p.m., Bert Stratton, a.k.a. Klezmer Guy, and the leader of Yiddishe Cup, will perform comedic prose sketches and play clarinet, accompanied by chauffeur Alan Douglas on vocals and fuel-injected, mood-enhancing piano; and special guest, Ann Arbor's Gerald Ross, who will perform on ukulele and Hawaiian steel guitar.

Stratton was one of the founders of the Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festival, and Yiddishe Cup's music was part of the Jewish Museum's exhibit "Chagall and the Artists of the Russian Jewish Theater, 1919-1949" (New York City, 2008-09; Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, 2009). Yiddishe Cup has performed for many years at The Ark, but this is a new twist for Ann Arbor audiences.

The Klezmer Guy show (formerly known as the "Driving Mr. Klezmer" show), premiered at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Cleveland, Ohio.

Tickets for the show are $20. To see a preview video of the show and for ticket information, go to http://theark.org/3389.html. The Ark is located at 316 South Main Street. ■

Ann Arbor Recons embrace new name

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah has adopted a new name—the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC). The decision to switch from "Havurah" to "Congregation" was finalized in the later half of 2012, as the group decided to embrace a name that better describes the wide range of services and activities offered.

"We wanted a name that portrayed the strength and breadth of our growing community, which now includes over 65 households," says Debbie Zivan, president emeritus and board co-chair of the AARC. The AARC's religious school is a place where children become familiar with the Torah, learn Hebrew and are encouraged to develop their own viewpoints about Judaism. In addition, the AARC sponsors a broad range of Jewish activities, including Shabbat services, life cycle events, holiday observances, and social and educational programs. A favorite annual event is the Sukkot Retreat, featuring nature walks, art activities, yoga, fantastic food and friendship, as well as worship services. Also highly noteworthy are the AARC's ticketless high-holiday worship services that are open to the entire community.

According to Aura Ahuvia, rabbinic intern for the past four years and one of the group's founding members, "The new name, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, defines us more accurately, and will help newcomers get a better sense of what we're about."

An upcoming date to remember is the fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat and potluck at the Jewish Community Center, on Friday, February 22, starting at 6:15 p.m. Kids' pizza starts at 6 p.m. RSVPs are greatly appreciated for kids' pizza and/or childcare. Newcomers are welcome.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, visit www.aarecon.org or email info@aarecon.org or call 445-1910. ■

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Celebrating 20 years of Jewish Family Services: "Constellation JFS"

Cindy Klein, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is marking 20 years of service to the community on Sunday, April 21, 2013, with its "Constellation JFS" 20th Anniversary Celebration, to be held at the University Of Michigan North Campus Research Center from 4–6 pm.

JFS, as we know it now, was formed by a "constellation" of partners from the community. In the late 1970s a local committee, the Soviet Jewry Absorption Committee (SJAC) of Washtenaw County, was formed to help resettle the large influx of Jews arriving in the area from the former Soviet Union. Rabbi Allan D. Kensky, Helen Aminoff, Claire Bernstein, and the late Rae Lampe started the SJAC, and were joined later by Bassia Genkina, Irina Chernomordik, Angela Keselman, Myrna Miller and Rabbi Kensky's successor, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. Helen Aminoff arranged for association with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society so the immigrants would have access to financial support for their first 90 days in the United States. Additionally, Claire and Isadore Bernstein provided services and functions that are now part of the JFS offerings. They used their garage to repair and store donated furniture which was then distributed to the newcomers; they organized dinners and holiday parties; and Claire taught English as a Second Language classes.

In the late 1980s, the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County (now the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor), took over the resettlement project because the wave of immigration in 1989–1990 was the largest since the turn of the century. Lora Shapiro and Temma Klibaner served as the first official coordinators of the new resettlement program.

The need for a social service agency for the Washtenaw County Jewish population was identified in a "community needs assessment" during the early 1990s. Acting on survey results, the Jewish Federation board of directors formed a planning committee chaired by Phyllis Herzig. Meeting in 1991, the group explored JFS models in other communities, consulted with professionals in the local and national Jewish communal service movement, and developed an organizational structure and a mission statement. With the recommendation of the planning committee at the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation in the spring of 1992, the Federation board gave their approval to plan for the development of a Jewish Family Services in Washtenaw County. Linda Shain was hired as a consultant in the fall of 1992 to implement operation of the planning efforts, with the assistance of attorney, Ed Goldman. Charles Garvin and Phyllis Herzig were involved in all of these early efforts and have remained continuously involved with JFS to the present day. When Jewish Family Services was officially founded in 1993, the resettlement of new Americans became a major program of the agency. The first JFS office was housed in the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

Brian Ashin was the first chair of a JFS Advisory Council formed to create the agency and, under his leadership, the first director, Sue Sefansky, was hired in August 1993. In the following month, JFS began operations by engaging in the process of serving individuals who approached the agency with a broad variety of needs. The JFS Advisory Council created several committees to help it carry out its work. In those days, the staff was quite limited and included Sefansky and Temma Klibaner, who provided resettlement services. Because of these staff limitations, the Advisory Council members often aided in staff functions such as recruiting therapists willing to offer services and planning educational programs for these therapists. Another Advisory Council committee helped to plan Family Life Education programs for the community. These included sessions on intermarriage, substance abuse and caring for aging parents. Still other committees were concerned with organizational development. The Advisory Council consisted of individuals who were enthusiastic about the agency, eager to serve, and in their own right brought many relevant skills to the agency. Sue Sefansky served as director of JFS from 1994–1995, followed by Aliza Shevrin, from 1995–1996. In 1997 Anya Abramzon was hired as executive director and the agency's first full-time employee.

JFS became a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization in 2004. At this point, it received an allocation of funds from the Jewish Federation, but it had its own president and board of directors, and was able to seek grants and develop relationships with volunteers and donors independently. Margie Checkoway served as the first president, followed by Steve Gerber, and currently, Phyllis Herzig. Bob Miller will become president in September 2013. Since 2004, the agency has grown substantially. JFS has expanded from a single person agency with two programs to an organization with 20 full-time equivalent staff working providing a wide variety of services. In 2012, JFS impacted more than 3,000 clients, providing them with counseling, emergency assistance services, access to a food pantry and clothing closet, case management, older adult services, employment and career services, resettlement services and transportation.

In 2011, Carol Amster decided that the legacy of her late husband, Herb Amster, would be to create The Herb Amster Center at JFS; the purpose of this special division is to identify mission-driven programs that will provide additional funding thereby decreasing the agency's reliance on grants and donations. The Herb Amster Center will be officially launched at the "Constellation JFS" 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Over the years, JFS has been strongly supported by the community. Hundreds of volunteers, either individually or in conjunction with local organizations, have served as drivers, friendly visitors or accompaniment to medical appointments for older adults. Many others helped immigrants and English as a Second Language students master the language and become acculturated to life in America; delivered Meals on Wheels on Christmas; did mitzvah projects; collected food for the hungry; and donated holiday gifts for the needy. In addition, generous donors have provided needed operating funds that help sustain the agency. ■

"Star of the Month" Morgan Deleonard

Leading up to the anniversary celebration, JFS will introduce the community to a "Star of the Month." The Star for February 2013 is JFS's Resource Center specialist, Morgan Deleonard. She is but one in the vast constellation of staff and community members who make JFS what it is today.

Deleonard has also been named the 2012 Barrier Buster of the Year for her work matching persons in need to resources. Deleonard does all initial intakes at JFS, runs the JFS Food and Personal Items Pantry, and also serves as an intern in the JFS Resettlement Program as she works on her master's degree in social work.

Morgan Deleonard

Morgan's efforts have benefited countless people. Her work has helped prevent utility shutoff and evictions, kept low-income persons from going hungry, helped elderly clients purchase needed prescriptions, and enabled Holocaust survivors to access medical care. She is "*tikkun olam*" (repairing the world) personified.

Barrier Busters is a group of over 50 social service provider agencies that are committed to increasing communication and coordination between its member agencies, and improving services for Washtenaw County residents in need. Each member agency identifies at least one "Barrier Buster" who becomes the point of contact for their agency and facilitates collaborative case management between member agencies. Barrier Busters is only one of more than 13 collaborating agencies that JFS holds membership in

Delivering Meals on Wheels – It's an adventure!

Diane Fenske, special to the WJN

If a mitzvah can be defined as an act of human kindness, kindness was in abundance on December 25 at the Motor Meals office on Traverwood in Ann Arbor. Sixteen families from the community, along with two employees and a volunteer from Jewish Family Services, all came together to deliver meals to homebound adults in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

JFS has facilitated the organizational details of this holiday project for many years—but community volunteers are the ones who make it all happen. Hundreds of meals are distributed weekly from this University of Michigan-based program. Volunteers typically deliver the meals six days per week; but on Christmas Day it's been a tradition for JFS to facilitate the deliveries. This allows the staff of the Motor Meals Program and their volunteers to celebrate the holiday with their families, or simply have a day of rest.

Planning for this event began in early November, with JFS staff member Diane Fenske and social work intern Chelsea Yarbor visiting the Motor Meals office and seeing how it's done on a daily basis. It appeared to be organized chaos at first, but is obviously an extremely well organized and efficient program. Volunteers were recruited from lists of individuals who had helped in the past, as well as some newcomers. The offers to volunteer continued to come in right up until December 24; this is an adventure families truly enjoy taking part in.

Judy Sharkey and Tony Brakora

Some of the 16 families who participated this year had volunteered before. One family has delivered meals for ten years, another for eight. Another family started doing it when their son was in grade school—he's in college now and still enjoys the experience. Everyone had wonderful reasons to share about why this is an important event for their family. For Judy Sharkey and Tony Brakora, this was their first year, and they felt it was a great experience for both of them and said they'll be back. Joey and Cindy Lechtner and their children Jimmy, Ryan and Steven have participated for five years. They feel it's a special way for their children to bring a little joy into the lives of homebound older adults on a holiday. Volunteers came back to report they had "customers" who would not have had any other visitors on Christmas, and were grateful to see children and receive food and holiday cards. Students from Emerson School drew pictures and cards, and wrote messages that were delivered along with the two meals—one hot, and one sack lunch for later.

The Lechtner family

Anyone interested in delivering meals to homebound adults during the year should contact the Motor Meals office at 998-6686. Those who would like to participate on December 25, 2013, should contact Diane Fenske at JFS (diane@jfsannarbor.org) to have your name put on the list for notification. ■

SPICE: Older adult programs at the JCC

Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural and Educational Programs for Older Adults

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Join SPICE, a weekly program for older adults located at the Jewish Community Center. SPICE offers a warm environment where older adults in the community come to learn, socialize, and have fun. Visit the JCC to see the latest newsletter, SPICE It Up! and for information about current programming. Members meet every Tuesday and Thursday for various activities. All events are free unless noted otherwise. Questions? Contact Jessica Webb at jessicawebb@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Tuesdays

11 a.m.: ***Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar*** – $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10
Noon: ***Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet*** – $3 per person
1 p.m.: ***Games and Activities*** – Join in for games and activities including mahjong, sewing, and quilting.

Thursdays

10 a.m.: ***Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar*** – $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10
11 a.m.: ***Current events with Heather Dombey***. Bring items of interest for group discussion.
Noon: ***Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet*** – $3 per person
1 p.m.: ***Presentations, performances, discussions, lectures, activities, and special events***

February special events and presentations

Thursday, February 7
12:30 p.m.: Birthday celebration for all with February birthdays. Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.
1 p.m.: Join SPICE in welcoming Ilan Ofir. Ilan is the Israel Fellow at Hallal through the University of Michigan. He will talk about the Israeli elections and experiences growing up in Israel.

Thursday, February 14
12:30 p.m.: A registered nurse from Care Response will provide free blood pressure checks.
1 p.m.: Come enjoy a magic performance and sing along with the new executive JCC Director Jeff Baden.

Thursday, February 21
1 p.m.: Senior staffer Jessica Webb's husband, Timothy, will present on his archaeological work in Pompeii, Italy, in his presentation "Pompeii through the Ages."

Thursday, February 28
1 p.m.: SPICE member Sol Saginaw's son, Paul Sagninaw, co-founder of Zingerman's, will present on Zingerman's and the founding of the local landmark in his presentation "In the Beginning All We Wanted Was a Really Good Corned Beef Sandwich."

OSHER class offered at the JCC

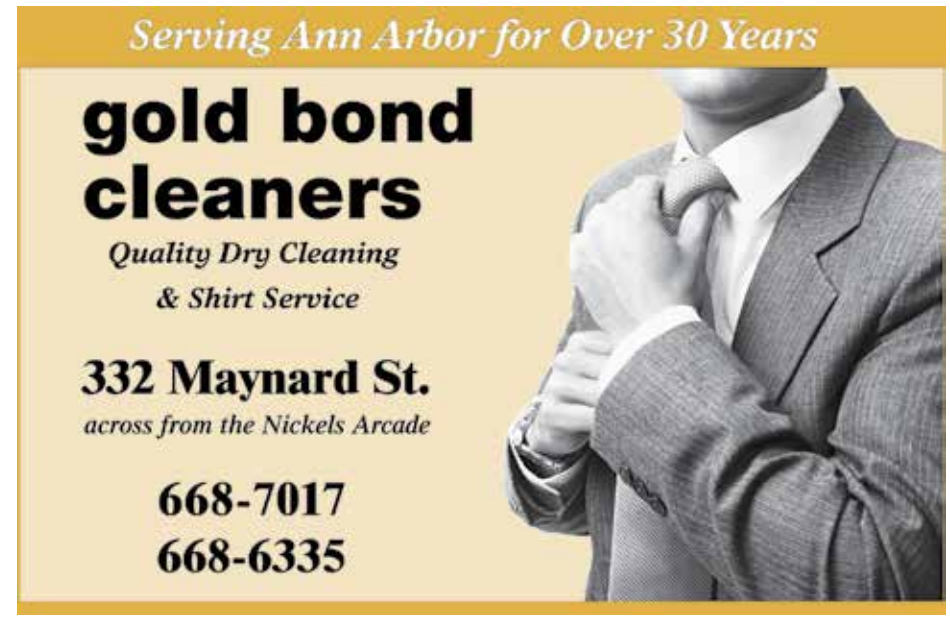
Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

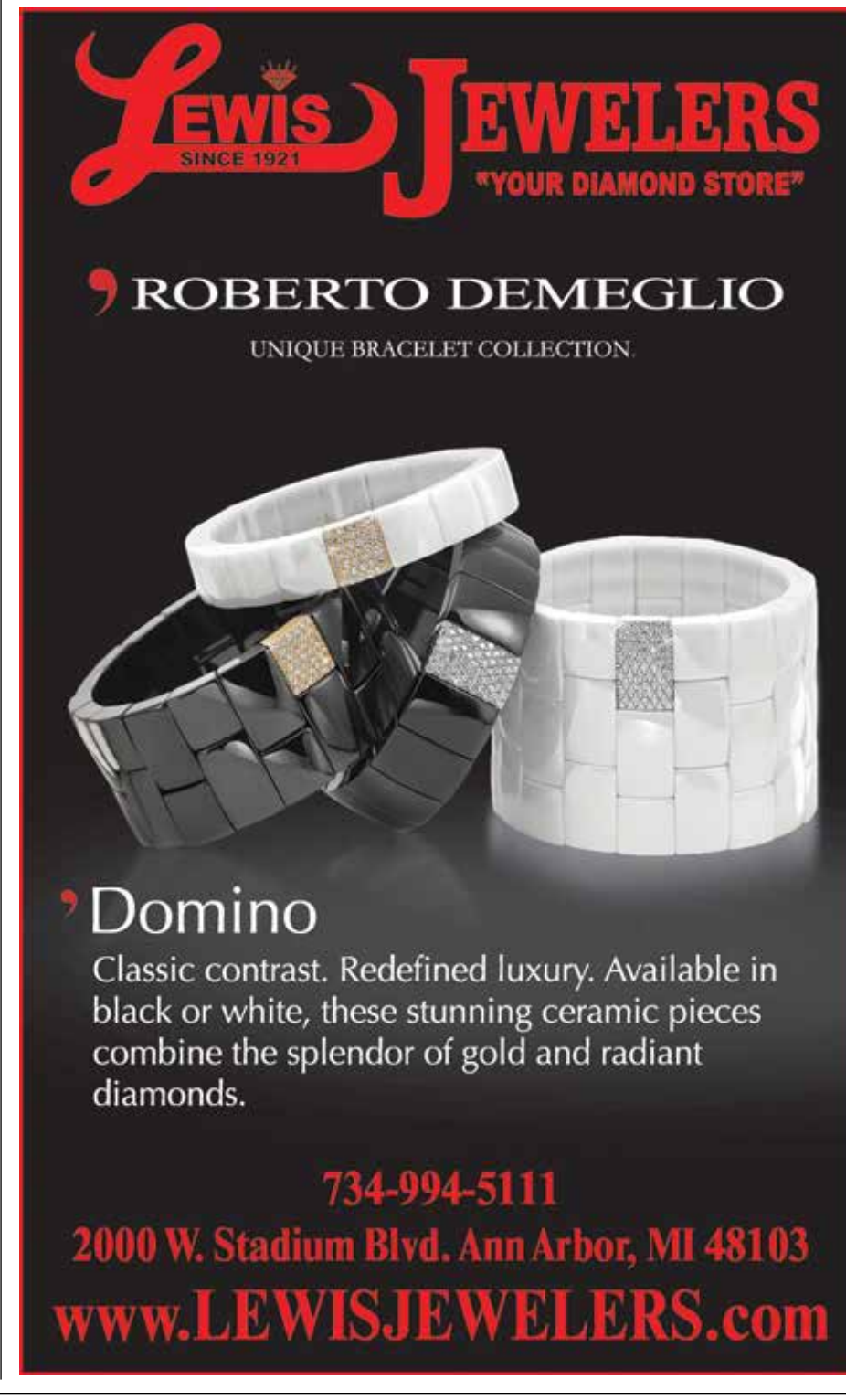
The Jewish Community of Greater Ann Arbor will be holding an "Investing in Retirement" course on Tuesdays, February 5–April 23, from 3–4:30 p.m. at the JCC. Participants will learn about investing methods and how to minimize risks. The class will cover new asset allocation methods, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETF's annuities, real estate, and other assets. Learn how to deal with today's low interest rate and potential high inflation later. Retirement tax considerations will also be discussed. George Levy, Ph.D., invests as a hobby and studies investing strategies. He is not a registered investment advisor, nor will he try to sell any investments or services. The class will also include lectures from Bob Shaw. The fee is $40 and should be paid directly to OLLI. Visit www.olli-umich.org for more information, or contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Kosher co-op now in Ann Arbor

Chaim White, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor is one of 18 cities across the country with its own Kosher food coop. Thousands of products are locally delivered that average 25 percent to 50 percent below retail cost. The upcoming Passover order deadline is Sunday February 3, with delivery on March 13. Co-op members can easily browse, order, and pay for products online. The Co-op carries hundreds of fresh meat/poultry (including Lubavitch), dairy (including *chalav yisroel*), dry goods, fish, candy, and more. The website will be converted over to Passover-only items in mid-January. To receive a reminder before the order deadline, join the co-op community at www.kckoshercoop.com. Membership is free. Contact admin@kckoshercoop.com with any questions.





Yitro: How darkness can bring light

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The first week of February we will be reading the Torah portion called Yitro. In this reading we find the story of the great event of the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai—"Matan Torah." This is the main theme of the Torah portion. But we see something mysterious. We see no mention of the event in the name of the portion. We know that the name of a portion is precisely indicative of the theme of the reading. There appears to be no obvious connection between the main events of the parsha, the giving of the Torah, and the person in its title. Because it isn't obviously apparent, doesn't mean that our sages dropped the ball. Rather, we need to take a harder look and call on guidance from our great scholars. One reference, The Zohar, tells us that until Yitro came and demonstrated his recognition of Hashem, the Torah wasn't given. The Torah was given only after Yitro came to the desert and met with his son-in-law Moses and made the following declaration: " Now I know that is greater than all other Gods." When Yitro made this declaration it created a great tumult in the upper, spiritual worlds. It was so highly regarded in the upper worlds that it caused all the worlds to be elevated such that Hashem agreed to give the Torah to this world. That is the connection between Yitro and the giving of the Torah—when Yitro made his declaration, Hashem decided we were ready to receive the Torah.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

The giving of the Torah enables us to reveal God's true purpose for our existence.

What was so special about Yitro that the Heavens should move on his account? The Torah describes him as Kohain Midyan—the priest of Midian. There are two interpretations in the Midrash that help clarify the meaning of "the priest of Midian". One says that he was a highly respected leader in Midian and had the highest honors in the world of that time. The other interpretation says that he literally was the high priest in the religion of Midian. He mastered and worshiped every idolatry that was known to man kind at that time and place, Unfortunately, his religion was one of idolatry and he, being the high priest, was the epitome of all the idolatry of the world of his time. Now we can begin to understand why Yitro's praise to Hashem was so momentous and caused such a stir in the upper worlds. When a person of his stature travels all the way out to the desert and publicly recognizes Hashem over idolatry it is a testament to the veracity and power of Hashem. When the premier representative of the forces of darkness recognizes the forces of light – that yields the greatest light. As King Solomon said, "one especially appreciates light coming from darkness. "Yitro represented the epitome of darkness, which is the worship of idols and the denial of the existence of Hashem as the one God. Here he becomes converted to believing that Hashem is the only and true God. This was something very special—both on this Earth as well as in the spiritual realms.

That's why it is regarded as the prelude to the giving of the Torah.

Therefore we say that this act of Yitro, coming out to the desert and coming closer to Judaism was preparation for the giving of the Torah as well as being the inner essence of the momentous event of the giving of the Torah.

As we know, Torah was in the world even before it was formally given at Mt. Sinai. It is known that the patriarchs studied Torah. The Jewish people studied Torah even when they went down to Egypt. Judah went ahead to Goshen prior to the rest of the tribes to set up schools of Torah study. Jacob studied at the school of Shem and Eber.

If the Torah existed before the events at Mt. Sinai, what was so special about it when it was given there? It was after this point that the Jewish people had the ability to sanctify this physical world. This physical world, by its nature, wants to conceal the true nature of Hashem from us. The giving of the Torah enables us to reveal God's true purpose for our existence. That is to take the physical world and, by following the path of mitzvahs laid out in the Torah, elevate this mundane world and make it holy and fit as a dwelling place for Hashem. To bring this revelation, we needed Yitro to come over from "the dark side" and accept Hashem as the One God. As the highest ranked idolater of the time, renouncing all idolatry and then converting to Hashem made a great stir in the physical and spiritual worlds. This paved the way for the Torah to be given to the Jewish people due to this great merit that Yitro gave through his conversion from dark to light.

So this is the answer to the question of why the parshah is called Yitro. He symbolizes the main point of the giving of the Torah. What lesson do we learn from all this? In order to receive the light of the Torah, one has to have the spirit of Yitro. Meaning, one has to take the physical world with all its coarseness, debasement, darkness, etc., and make it holy. When a person takes the gross, lower elements of this physical world and makes them into vessels for Hashem's holiness to dwell, he opens his heart as well as his intellect to receive the Torah. Therefore, one needs to understand that holiness doesn't only occur when praying in a synagogue or studying in a house of study, or when performing Torah mitzvos. We have to see, as well, that when we are out in the world amongst the gross physicality of our existence that, by following Hashem's ways through the blueprint for living that we call the Torah, we have the ability to elevate to holiness and bring spiritual light to even the mundane activities of eating, sleeping, working, etc. Transforming them into holy, light- filled vessels fit for Hashem to dwell here on Earth. When everyone will do his or her part to make this world a dwelling place for Hashem—that will prepare the world for the coming of Moshiach. May it be speedily in our days. ■

Remembering Newtown this Passover

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

Almost two months after it occurred, most us still have not fully come to grips with the tragedy that took place at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. May the memory of these children and their brave teachers be for a blessing and may those who mourn be comforted.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

While all of us were moved by this particular tragedy, it is important to remember that innocent lives are lost to violence in big cities and small towns throughout our nation each day, and each experience should cry out to us urging us to confront this terrible plague of violence. There are issues that the tragedy in Newtown raises besides our nation's policies concerning guns, and the question of the availability of proper mental health care is certainly one of them. However, as a nation, we absolutely must find ways to insure that weapons are not as easily available and easily used as they are today.

The Newtown tragedy took place on the 6th day of Hanukkah and, for many of us, the lighting of the lights that evening just before Shabbat was a sad experience. As I wrote that afternoon, I always look forward to the Shabbat of Hanukkah when the Hanukkah lights and the Shabbat candles both shine in the home. That night, however, even that light was not strong enough to cut through the darkness.

The tragedy cast darkness on other celebrations as well. I know that many of my Christian colleagues incorporated the Newtown tragedy and concern for the families of the victims into their Christmas sermons. A friend of ours did the same at a Christmas dinner the next day, expressing a hope that we reach out in compassion to those who have suffered.

It was, it seems, so difficult for any of us to fully celebrate a festival in light of this horrible event.

I believe that, as Jews, we need to face that same reality as we approach the holiday of Pesach. While Pesach is still quite a few weeks away, many of us begin to plan for the Seder significantly before the holiday. And as we do, I believe there is one aspect of the telling of the Pesach story that we need to rethink in light of the tragedies of innocent lives lost to violence, especially when those innocent victims are children. That section is the recitation of the 10 plagues.

So many people have asked difficult questions over so many centuries: Why was it necessary for God to inflict plagues upon the Egyptians? Couldn't God have brought the Hebrews out of slavery without such violence? And, especially, why did God kill the first born of the Egyptians, even the innocent children, for the Hebrews to be redeemed?

Our rabbis struggled with those questions and most did not come up with a satisfactory answer. So, as a reflection of their ambivalence concerning the story of the plagues and in recognition that we must not celebrate our redemption without recognizing the pain the Egyptians suffered, the tradition developed to engage in a symbolic gesture. We reduce the wine in our cup of celebration at the seder, taking one drop out with a finger for each of the plagues.

This year, in light of Newtown and so many other experiences in so many places, we must do more. I would suggest taking an additional 10 drops of wine out in memory of the innocent children that have been killed in small towns and big cities in this country and throughout the world. These drops of wine will remind us of a contemporary plague we must address.

But, I believe as well that we must move beyond symbolic acts and look very carefully at how we teach the story of the 10 plagues. Even if I can't understand them fully theologically, I believe that we absolutely must teach them to our children as part of the story of Pesach and recite them at the seder. There is an important message in the story of the plagues as we see that those who act in violent, immoral ways often become victims of violence themselves. We can teach that serious lesson but, at the same time, we must be careful not to trivialize the chaos that the plagues represented to the children in Egypt. And we must be very careful not to use the recitation of the plagues at the seder as a time to rejoice.

Pesach is a time to celebrate our redemption and the destruction of the Egyptian taskmasters is part of that story. But this year, especially, we must remember the children who are still dying throughout our nation and throughout our world.

I believe that it is essential that we limit our efforts to play games with the 10 plagues. The tradition of using the plagues in this way developed as another way to keep kids interested in the seder story, and that is always important. But it has, I believe, gotten out of hand.

Here is how far it has gone. It is possible to purchase chocolate pieces in the form of plagues, which, of all things, include a baby basket symbolizing the death of the first-born. I would argue that, especially this year, such expressions of celebration are obscene and misguided.

Pesach is a time to celebrate our redemption and yes, the destruction of the Egyptian taskmasters is part of that story. But this year, especially, we must remember the children who are still dying throughout our nation and throughout our world. Let us do that by finding places in the seder ritual other than the 10 plagues to be creative and fun in order to keep our children interested. Instead, let's give our children an extra hug and a promise that we will work to make their world safer. ■

This month at Temple Beth Emeth

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Purim celebrations at TBE

Every year TBE celebrates Purim with a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement. This year, toddlers, elementary school-age children, high-schoolers and the whole family will gather together for TBE's annual Purim carnival and Megillah reading on February 24 from 5–7:30 p.m. Pizza will be available for a quick dinner. The entire community is welcome to this celebration and are invited to come in costume.

Families with Young Children (FYC)

Shabbat Service times every Friday
Tot (0–5 year olds) Shabbat services led by Rabbi Levy and Cantor Annie Rose, 5:30 p.m.
Dinner for Tot Shabbat 6 p.m.
Sukkat Shalom with Rabbi Delson and Cantor Rose, 6:30 p.m.
Shira (Tot song session), 6:30 p.m.
Popsicle Oneg, 7 p.m.
Family Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m.

Women's Torah Study

Monthly, 1st and 3rd Mondays, February 4 and 18, 7–8:30 p.m.

For centuries, women were not encouraged to study Torah. Times have changed and women are encouraged and empowered to study Torah with the same vigor as men. Join in for a unique experience to study and discuss what the Torah has to say through the voices of women. For questions, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannieatgmail.com.

Basic Judaism with Rabbi Lisa Delson

Mondays, February 4, 11, and 25, 7–8:15 p.m.

Basic Judaism is a course for those hoping to learn more about Judaism. This class is for those born Jewish, studying toward conversion, or those who just want to learn more about the Jewish tradition. Each class will focus on a different aspect of Jewish living and learning, from holidays to Jewish texts, from celebrations to mourning. The course is free for TBE members and $30 for non-TBE members. For more information and to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Levy

Fridays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, Noon–1 p.m.

Creation: A Religious View of Science. Come for an informal discussion about the intersection between religion and science. All sessions are held in the Adult Lounge and are open to the community. Lunch is not provided, bring your own.

February Beit Café: Adult education night

Monday, February 25, 7–9 p.m.

Join TBE for the third Beit Café of 5773. Participants may choose two of four classes to attend with a refreshment break around 8 pm. Topics this month include: Hamentaschen baking and Purim discussion with Rabbi Delson; Sisterhood: A Centennial Celebration with Hillary Handwerger; Rabbi Levy on Reform Judaism for Those from Different Backgrounds; and A Forgotten Viennese Composer with Stephan Koch playing cello.

TNT: Purim Party

Saturday, February 23, 9 p.m.–midnight.

TNT is inviting everyone who is between 20–35 to come to a Purim party at Bab's Underground Lounge (213 South Ashley Street). For just $5 a person, there will be snacks, costumes, and a private room to party. Singles and couples are welcome. RSVP by February 20 to Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelsonattemplebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Food for Thought: Jewish Food Book

Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m.

February's book: *Kosher Nation,* by Sue Fishkoff. Rabbi Delson and Robin Little will host a book club all about food on the second Wednesday of every month. Each month the group will read a new book related to food and Judaism from Jewish authors; to ideas of *kashrut* and Jewish family food traditions; ethical eating; health and wellness; and holiday celebrations. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. but come at 5:30 p.m. and bring dinner for a chance to schmooze. Contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org for more information.

Men's Torah Study

Wednesday, February 13 and 27, 7:30–9 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth's Men's Torah study meets twice a month for an evening of learning. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman at rgstutesmanatsbcglobal.net.

Spirituality Book Club

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 7 at noon,

February's book: *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Essential Writings,* by Susannah Heschel

Join Cantor Annie Rose for the fourth season of the spirituality book club. All are welcome to come to every meeting or on occasion for specific books of interest. Choose either the daytime or evening session. ■

The history behind the *siddur*

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

The monthly learners service offered by Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation encourages participants to explore the traditions, meaning and background of the Shabbat morning service and find a personal path to greater meaning in Jewish prayer. The services are held monthly during the school year from 10 a.m.–noon at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The sessions in February and March offer a double header that explore who contributed the siddurim prayers, when did they live, and what context shaped their offerings.

February 22

Putting it All Together: The Who, What and When Behind our Prayers. Participans will construct a gigantic timeline of Jewish history together. Who were the individuals and groups that contributed to the contents of the siddur? In what historical context did they live? What issues were they addressing, when they composed their prayers? They, and present day Jews, are really not so different from each other.

Aura Ahuvia

March 9

Putting it All Together: Who, What and When, Part II. In discovering that prayers are living tools which helped Jewish ancestors confront, change, or survive their times, the class will begin to look anew at the prayers of people's hearts, those which might help people to confront, change or survive their times. This is a quintessentially Reconstructionist thing to do. This class provides a powerful way to understand the group's own role within history, as well as their obligation to future generations. ■

"Under the Sea" is theme for Chabad Purim celebration

Mendy Rimler, special to the WJN

Sushi. Seaside Open Bar. Seafood. Ancient Persian history? Well yes, if you're spending Purim with Chabad of Ann Arbor.

On Sunday, February 24, Chabad of Ann Arbor will throw a Purim Under The Sea party for the Jewish community, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The festivities will begin with a Megillah reading, followed by dinner, dancing, and fun activities for all ages.

Taking a dive into a Purim underwater is Ron Loyd the Bubble Man. Loyd will show off his renowned bubble skills and tricks at the party, which include cube bubbles, smoke filled bubbles and bubbles inside of bubbles.

"The Bubble Man," says Shternie Zwiebel, coordinator of the event, has "bursting success with kids all over Michigan. We're super excited to bring the Bubble Man to our Purim party this year."

Hamantashen will complement the array of seafood, sushi and other sea-related delights to be served at the event. In addition, there'll be crafts and other entertaining activities.

For more information or to R.S.V.P call 995-3276 *5 or email director@mycampganisrael.com. Admission is $25 per family before February 20 and $30 at the door. Individuals are $8 before February 20 and $10 at the door. ■

Federation Impact Fund, continued from page 1

the course of a year in Ann Arbor and in Ypsilanti—concerts, educational activities, a Jewish dance event and an academic lecture—to explore the bond between Jewish people and Jewish music. Coordinated by the three sponsor organizations, all Jewish congregations and organizations in Washtenaw County will be invited to participate and collaborate. Funding will be used to engage teachers and performers, and to leverage additional community funding.

"Generations Skype," proposed by Jewish Family Services, will address the difficulties of older adults who do not have access to the internet and are unable to visit with relatives who live far away to stay in communication with their loved ones.

JFS will schedule 30-minute Skype sessions between an older adult and their children or grandchildren facilitated by a trained volunteer who will arrive with a 3G enabled iPad. The volunteer will make the connections and facilitate the conversation on a regular basis so that not only is family communication enhanced and isolation reduced, but a supportive ongoing relationship with the volunteer is developed. Funding will be used to purchase communications equipment and to fund a .20 FTE volunteer coordinator.

"The Jewish Bereavement Group" was proposed by Donna Shewach, Ph.D., and Rabbi Sara Adler. Jewish Family Services is a collaborator in the project. Jewish-centered bereavement support groups are an important part of the healing process for families experiencing grief. There are support groups established in congregational settings from time to time that serve primarily the members of that particular congregation. However, an ongoing support group open to all Jewish adults in Washtenaw County does not exist.

The Jewish Bereavement Support Group will be co-facilitated by Rabbi Sara Adler, a Jewish chaplain at the University of Michigan Health System with experience as a grief counselor, and by a clinical social worker from Jewish Family Services to assure that both spiritual and psychological support needs are addressed. Funding will be used to meet all costs so the service can be offered free to participants.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) at Alpha House is an emergency shelter for children and families experiencing homelessness. Annually, IHN serves up to 40 families who live in their shelter plus another 20–30 families in a home-based support network. Volunteers from Jewish congregations have been essential to the success of IHN, but as funding has decreased, the need for volunteers has increased, especially to work with children.

IHN will reach out to Jewish students at area Hillel programs and to youth and young adults at area Jewish congregations and develop a new training module to teach them about the problem of homelessness and engage them as volunteers with IHN client families. Funding will be used to do outreach and to develop and implement the training module.

Neal Blatt, chair of Federation's Jewish Community Impact Fund, expressed his satisfaction with the projects funded in 2013. "Our funding has extended beyond Federation's usual recipients. Community members came together and collaborated to form new projects that will add to the cultural life and services available to Jewish community members. Through the Impact Fund, Federation is partnering with agencies, congregations, the campus and community members to address the issues of isolation, homelessness, grief, Jewish cultural education and our local history."

Bernie Banet, Laurie Barnett, David Doneson, Bruce Friedman, Lauren Katz, and Randy Milgrom also served on the Impact Fund Selection Committee ■

February Performances

Angélique Kidjo
with special guest Meklit Hadero
Friday, February 1, 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Vocalist Angélique Kidjo is a bona fide world music superstar, whose highly personal mix of styles combines powerful West African grooves, raw American R&B, driving samba beats, and sophisticated jazz harmonies. She is joined by special guest Meklit Hadero, an Ethiopian-born young singer whose sound "is a unique blend of jazz, Ethiopia, the San Francisco art scene and visceral poetry; it paints pictures in your head as you listen." (NPR)

Funded in part by the
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Media Partners **WDET 101.9 FM and Ann Arbor's 107one**

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg & New Century Chamber Orchestra
Saturday, February 2, 8 pm
Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Mendelssohn	Symphony No. 10 in b minor (1823)
Bolcom	Romanza for Violin and String Orchestra (2010)
Villa-Lobos	Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 (1938-45)
R. Strauss	Metamorphosen (1944-45)

Supported by **Linda and Ronald Benson**
Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM**

Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet
with Martin Katz, piano
Saturday, February 9, 8 pm
Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Mozart	Fantasy for Mechanical Organ, K. 608 (arr. M. Hasel)
Kalevi Aho	Windquintet (2006)
Ibert	Trois pieces brèves (1939)
Milhaud	La cheminée du roi Rene (1939)
Poulenc	Sextet for Wind Quintet and Piano (1939)

Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM**

The King's Singers
Thursday, February 14, 7:30 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Instantly recognizable from their spot-on intonations, impeccable vocal blend, flawless articulation of text, and incisive timing, The King's Singers are consummate entertainers, charming the audience with a delightful British wit along with their stunning vocal performance.

Supported by **Glenn Watkins**
Media Partner **WRCJ 90.9 FM**

Kodo
Friday, February 15, 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

In the Japanese tradition, drums do more than make music: they mark the physical and metaphorical edge of a village. If you could hear them beat, you were part of the community. Kodo has lived this principle for 30 years, using thundering, soothing sounds that turn audiences from Asia to South America into one big village. Known for its percussive fireworks, Kodo returns to Hill Auditorium with its new artistic director, Kabuki luminary Tamasaburo Bando.

Sponsored by **University of Michigan Health System**

Funded in part by the
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Media Partner **Ann Arbor's 107one**

Amjad Ali Khan
with Amaan Ali Khan and Ayaan Ali Khan, sarods
Saturday, February 16, 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

"Amjad Ali Khan may be a master of the sarod rather than the guitar, but once he had built up to the crescendo of his solo set — improvising furiously around the melody line with repeated, rapid-fire playing and then letting his equally frantic tabla player take over — it was easy to see why great Indian music can be as exciting as classic blues and rock." (*The Guardian*, London)

Funded in part by the
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

Handel's *Radamisto*
The English Concert
Harry Bicket, conductor
David Daniels, countertenor
Sunday, February 17, 4 pm
Hill Auditorium

For his first opera at the Royal Academy, Handel chose an imposing subject: desire, dictatorship and personal infatuation at the court of the Armenian King Tiridate. This concert version of *Radamisto* pays tribute to UMS's early history in Hill Auditorium, when concert opera was frequently presented. It stars U-M alumnus David Daniels, who has led the resurgence of interest in countertenors over the past decade. "To say he is the most acclaimed countertenor of the day, perhaps the best ever, is to understate his achievement. He is simply a great singer." (*The New York Times*)

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM and WRCJ 90.9 FM**

Propeller
Ed Hall, Director

Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*
Wednesday, February 20, 7:30 pm
Friday, February 22, 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 23, 2 pm
Sunday, February 24, 7:30 pm
Power Center

Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*
Thursday, February 21, 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 23, 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 24, 2 pm
Power Center

Propeller uses an all-male cast as was done in Shakespeare's day, although their approach is anything but archaic. Physical, modern, and laugh-out-loud funny, Propeller pulls out all the stops to make you fall in love with Shakespeare in ways you never expected.

One of Shakespeare's best loved comedies of love and confusion, *Twelfth Night* tells a twisted tale of mistaken identity, transformation, and deception. With a man playing a girl disguised as a boy, illusion and reality are almost indistinguishable on Propeller's island of Illyria.

In *The Taming of the Shrew* two disguised, competing suitors clamor for the hand of beautiful Bianca while gold digging Petruchio agrees to wed her viciously ill-tempered sister Kate sight-unseen.

Supported by **Charles H. Gershenson Trust, Maurice Binkow, trustee**
Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts**
Media Partners **Between the Lines, Michigan Radio 91.3 FM, and Detroit Jewish News.**

New York Philharmonic
Alan Gilbert, conductor
Jan Vogler, cello [Sunday]
Saturday, February 23, 8 pm
Sunday, February 24, 2 pm [NOTE TIME]
Hill Auditorium

SATURDAY

Mozart	Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, K. 492 (1786)
Mozart	Symphony No. 36 in C Major, K. 425 ("Linz") (1783)
Brahms	Symphony No. 1 in c minor, Op. 68 (1855-76)

SUNDAY

Mussorgsky	Night on Bald Mountain (1886)
Bloch	Schelomo (Hebraic Rhapsody for Cello and Large Orchestra) (1917)
Tchaikovsky	Symphony No. 6 in b minor, Op. 74 (Pathétique) (1893)

A Prelude Dinner precedes the Saturday performance. Reservations: 734-764-8489.

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Presented with support from
Medical Community Endowment Fund and Susan B. Ullrich
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This month at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Men's Club Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 3, 6 p.m.

Participants can enjoy a wide screen experience of the Super Bowl game in Beth Israel's Social Hall, along with a full spread of delicious foods including chili, hot dogs (both meat and vegetarian), potato salad, chips/salsa, *nosherei*, and beverages.

The event fees are $12 per person to cover the cost of food. Everyone ages 13 and up are welcome. To RSVP email Harvey Somers at harveysomers@gmail.com. Payment will be collected at the door.

Henry Gershowitz Memorial Shabbat

Saturday, February 9, 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers from the congregation lead every part of the service on this Shabbat that honors the memory of Beth Israel's past-president, Henry Gershowitz. Until he passed away in 1998, Gershowitz was not only a pillar of the congregation, he was also a regular at Shabbat services, often leading *Pesukei D'zimrah*, and he also served as the Wednesday night minyan captain. Gershowitz encouraged new members to participate in leading the Saturday service which has inspired Beth Israel Men's Club and Women's League to honor him with this annual event. The service is followed by kiddush. This year contributions to the JTS Torah Fund are being collected prior to the event.

For more information or to sign up, contact Dennie Carbeck at 663-0452 or dencarb@comcast.net. Online sign-up is available on Beth Israel's website, www.bethisrael-aa.org. See "Events Sign-up."

World Wide Wrap

Sunday, February 3, 9:30 a.m.

Beth Israel Congregation, together with Jews around the world, will celebrate the mitzvah of tefillin at their morning minyanim, joining thousands of others in the 13th annual "World Wide Wrap," sponsored nationally by the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC). Beth Israel is known for its Polar Bear photo of the participants taken outside (regardless of the weather) after the Shaharit service, which is posted online together with those from congregations around the world. The World Wide Wrap at Beth Israel is co-sponsored by the Beth Israel Women's League, as well as by the Beth Israel Men's Club.

The mitzvah of wrapping tefillin is one of the oldest Jewish rituals. Instruction will be provided for those who need assistance and extra sets of tefillin will be available.

It is interesting to note that a study in the *Journal of Chinese Medicine* reported that the wearing of tefillin not only helps one spiritually, it may have other positive mental effects. It turns out that wearing tefillin places pressure on certain parts of one's arms and heads that "form a potent acupuncture point formula… aimed at elevating the spirit and clearing the mind."

The World Wide Wrap and a Shaharit service will be followed by coffee, bagels, and lox. For more information on joining Beth Israel's World Wide Wrap, contact Haran Rashes at 660-9283 or by e-mail to haran@umich.edu. Additional information about the World Wide Wrap is available on the Internet at http://worldwidewrap.org/, where tefillin are also available for purchase.

Lunch and Laugh

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 13 and 20, noon–1:15 p.m.

These weekly multi-media events, in honor of the Purim holiday, take place at the Garfunkel-Schteingart Activity Center at 2010 Washtenaw Avenue, led by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. "Lunch and Laugh" will feature some classic video and audio selections, as well as opportunities for participants to share their favorite humorous stories and experiences. Included in this year's series will be a tribute to the Marx Brothers, some great Purim humor and, of course, the words and music of Allan Sherman.

Participants are asked to bring lunch. Refreshments and cookies will be served. The Lunch and Learn series continues starting on February 27.

Tradition and Change: How Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law in Conservative Judaism

Thursday evenings, February 7, 14, 21 and 28, 8 p.m.

Questions of Jewish law from the perspective of the Conservative Movement will be discussed at these sessions that take place in the Beth Israel Adult Library. Among those issues discussed will be tattooing and body piercing, how Jewish astronauts should observe Shabbat while traveling in space, the concept of trading "land for peace," and other fascinating questions.

Famed tzedakah educator Danny Siegel

Monday, February 11, 7 p.m.

Danny Siegel will present "There's No Such Thing As a Small Mitzvah: More Than 36 (2 X Chai) Easy Ways To Make a BIG Difference With Just a Little Tzedakah Money And/or a Minimum of Time, Effort, Stamina, Talents and Personal Strengths and Preferences." Danny Siegel is one of the world's greatest experts on micro philanthropy. For more than 30 years he has lectured in hundreds of communities on the topic of personalized tzedakah and tikkun olam (fixing the world). He is a dynamic and charismatic speaker.

Danny Siegel

Siegel is sometimes referred to as "The Most Famous Unknown Jewish Poet in America." Among his not-well-enough-known poetry books are *A Hearing Heart and Unlocked Doors*, as well as, *Mitzvah Maniac, The World's Greatest Expert on Microphilanthropy*, *The Feeling Person's Thinker,* and *The Pied Piper of Tzedakah*. His volume *Healing: Readings and Meditations* combines poetry and prose and classical Jewish texts for those in need of healing words.

Siegel has a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from Columbia University's School of General Studies, and a bachelor's and master's of Hebrew literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He is one of three recipients of the prestigious 1993 Covenant Award for Exceptional Jewish Educators.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, February 9 and 23, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning program for toddlers and preschoolers and their families. Tot Shabbat features singing, dancing, stories, and prayers to celebrate Shabbat. The leaders of Tot Shabbat are Peretz Hirshbein on the second Saturday and Jacob Kander on the fourth Saturday of the month. Peretz Hirshbein is the assistant director of the Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the current vice-president for education on the Beth Israel board of directors. Jacob Kander is Beth Israel's program director.

Tot Shabbat meets at Beth Israel downstairs in room 15. Following services child-size tables are set out for Tot Shabbat kids and their families are always invited to stay to enjoy a kiddush lunch with the rest of the congregation.

Mini Minyan

Saturday, February 9, 11:15 a.m.

Mini Minyan is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service on the second Saturday each month for all kids in kindergarten through 2nd grade. Mini Minyan was designed in collaboration with many of the parents from Beth Israel and serves as a bridge for kids between Tot Shabbat and Kehillat Shabbat. It shares many of the favorite songs and stories from Tot Shabbat while beginning to teach prayers and incorporate activities similar to Kehillat Shabbat. The Mini Minyan service is led by program director Jacob Kander with special games and activities led by a team of parent volunteers. All parents are welcome to join in this service along with their children. Mini Minyan meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 16.

Kehillat Shabbat

Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service for kids in 3rd–5th grade. The program is designed for kids to have a great Shabbat experience, including a kid-friendly service along with games and other activities each month to help teach about holidays and Jewish values while building a stronger community for the kids in a fun way. Gabe Pachter, a senior at the University of Michigan, facilitates a service that is filled with student participation in the prayers, interactive discussions, and always ends with a special snack. Kehillat Shabbat is a great time once a month for elementary school students to celebrate Shabbat, to schmooze, and to learn together. Kehillat Shabbat meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 12.

Beth Israel Café

Sunday, January 13, 9:30 a.m.–noon

Men and women are invited to Beth Israel's Social Hall for a few minutes or the entire morning for free coffee and bagels. They may use their laptops (the entire synagogue is wireless) to socialize or to read. The cafe is planned and sponsored by the Beth Israel Women's League.

A Charlie Brown Purim!

Saturday, February23

Maariv/Havdallah 7:15 p.m., Megilla Reading and Program 7:30 p.m.

The general community is invited to join the fun—both adults and children wear costumes—as Charlie Brown, Lucy, Snoopy, and the rest of the Peanuts gang seek out the true meaning of Purim. The evening includes a full Megilla reading, and Snoopy's Snack Shack will be open throughout the evening with (free) hamentashen and refreshments. Noisemakers are provided along with the Book of Esther with translations (including large print and children's editions.)

Purim Morning Megilla Reading

Sunday, February 24, 9 a.m.

A Shaharit Service and complete megillah reading will be held beginning at 9 a.m. on Purim morning. The reading will be followed by brunch in the Social Hall. There is no charge for brunch and all are welcome.

Purim Celebration 2012

"Cirque du Beth Israel: a circus celebration featuring Cirque Amongus"

Sunday, February 24, noonk–2 p.m.

Aspiring performers in elementary school can learn circus acts such as tightrope walking, hula hooping, and barrel rolling. Preschoolers will be able to participate in all of the circus activities along with their parents help. Cirque Amongus was recently featured at "Top of the Park" during the 2012 Ann Arbor Summer Festival.

25th anniversary gala, celebrating Rabbi Dobrusin

Sunday, April 28, at 6 p.m.

Beth Israel wll honor Rabbi Robert Dobrusin for his 25 years of service to the congregation at this dinner fundraiser. Rabbi Dobrusin has served as rabbi at Beth Israel since 1988. He received his B.A. in near eastern and Judaic studies from Brandeis University and an M.A. and rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 2010, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from JTS.

Rabbi Dobrusin is an active supporter of many different Jewish organizations and was recently named co-chair of Rabbis for Human Rights-North America. He is a founding member of the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County and has served on the board of directors for several other community agencies. The community is invited to this event. Contact the Beth Israel office for an invitation.

General community is always welcome

All of Beth Israel's events, plus all educational offerings are open to the general community, often at no cost. For further information, call 665-9897 or visit www.bethisrael-aa.org. ■

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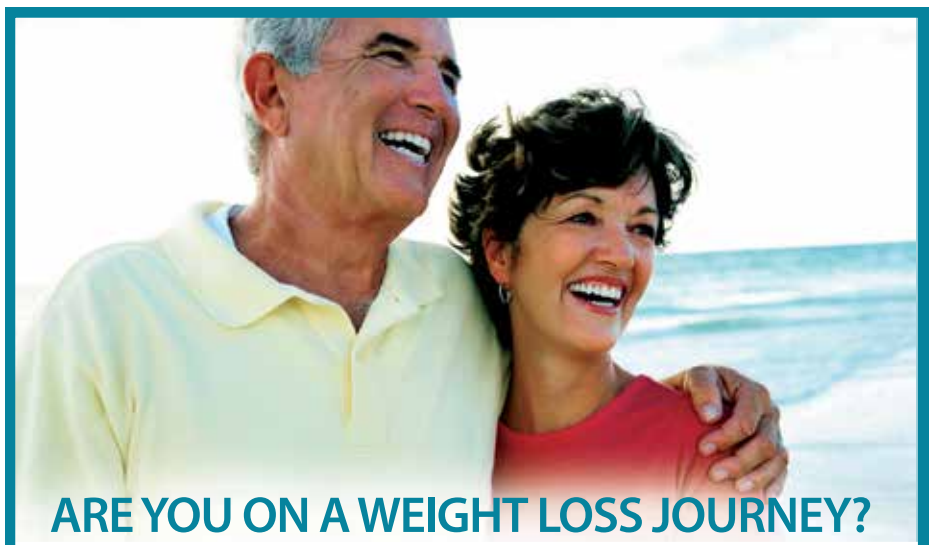

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The Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

January 30, 7pm
Barbez (Musical Performance)
"Force of Light: Songs for Paul Celan"
Lydia Mendelssohn Theater
911 North University, Ann Arbor

February 6, 4pm
Shelley Perlove, University of Michigan
"Mapping Out Sacred Space: Rembrandt and the Second Temple"
202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022

February 7, 12 noon
Jessica Marglin, Frankel Fellow
"Writing to the Sultan: Jews Petitioning the State in 19th-Century Morocco"
202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022

February 12, 4pm
Marian Krzyzowski, University of Michigan
"The Jewish Presence on Detroit's Chene Street"
202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022

February 21, 12 noon
Kathryn Laviezo, Frankel Fellow
"Shifting Geographies of Antisemitism: Thomas of Monmouth's Life and Miracles of St. William of Norwith"
202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022

February 26 & 27, 4 pm
Matan Hermoni, author of *Hebrew Publishing Company*
"America in Hebrew Literature at the Turn of the 20th Century" (Feb. 26)
"Reconstructing an Imaginary Yiddish Past Through Tel Avivian Eyes" (Feb. 27)
202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022

For the latest, "like" U-M Judaic Studies on Facebook or find us at www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic. JudaicStudies@umich.edu
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Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

The Jewish Cultural Society

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JCS

Sunday February 24th
10:30am—12 noon

(At the JCC 2935 Birch Hollow Drive)

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Hamentaschen, Pizza, Drinks for sale

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Costumes encouraged

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www.jewishculturalsociety.org

The consequences of Israel's vote

By Uriel Heilman

(JTA)—A few observations about the Israeli election results:

Right-left split changes, but not a game changer: From an outsider's perspective, Israel would seem to a very politically unstable place. The biggest party in the previous Knesset, Kadima, crashed from 28 seats to two. The No. 3 party, Yisrael Beiteinu, hitched its wagon to the ruling party, Likud, but their combined list lost about a quarter of its seats, down to 31 from 42. Meanwhile, a party that didn't exist until a few months ago, Yesh Atid, emerged as the 120-seat Knesset's second largest with 19 seats.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Yet despite the swapping of party labels, not much has changed in the right-left power split. Yes, the right wing lost a little ground—from 65 seats in the last Knesset to 60 seats in the new one. But within the rightists' camp, votes moved rightward from the more moderate Likud to the Jewish Home party. Also, it would be a mistake to lump together all the centist and left-wing parties. The biggest winner of the center, Yesh Atid, espouses positions on Palestinian-related issues that in many respects are not dissimilar to Likud's: Both favor negotiations with the Palestinians (though skeptics say Likud's position is more rhetorical than genuine) and retaining the large Jewish settlement blocs in the West Bank while opposing any division of Jerusalem. Most notably, Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid has made clear that he wants to join a coalition with Likud, which is led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Even if centrist parties such as Yesh Atid are massed with the leftists, they constitute a minority of fewer than 50 seats; the balance goes to the Arab parties.

New priorities: With Israelis deeply pessimistic about the chances for imminent peace, a significant number of voters went for parties that made socioeconomic issues, not security, the centerpiece of their campaigns. Yesh Atid ran a campaign about social and economic issues, and Labor leader Shelly Yachimovich, who led the party to 15 seats, up from eight in the last Knesset, virtually ignored security issues in her campaign. This represents a sea change from the old days, when campaigns were all about security. Tzipi Livni's Hatnua bucked the trend, emphasizing peace with the Palestinians. The result: six seats.

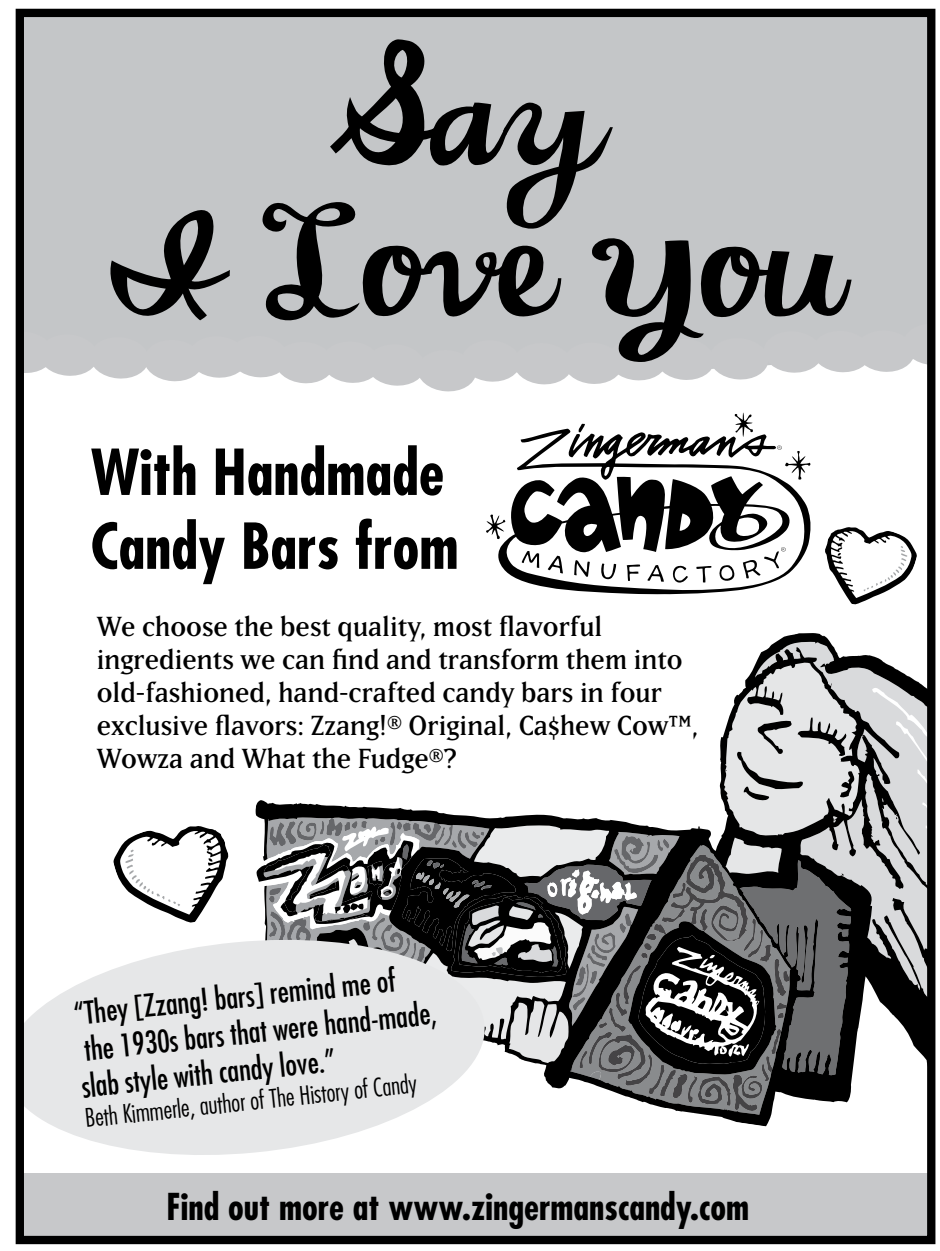
New faces: The 19th Knesset will see a plethora of new members, with more than a quarter of the parliament occupied by first-timers, most of them from Jewish Home and Yesh Atid. Jewish Home is led by a son of American immigrants to Israel, businessman-turned-politician Naftali Bennett, and Yesh Atid is guided by Lapid, a former TV personality and the son of the late politician Yosef "Tommy" Lapid.

Women: The new Knesset will have more women; Yesh Atid leads the way with eight female representatives. The Likud-Beiteinu list has seven, Labor has four, Meretz has three and Jewish Home has two. Hatnua and Hadash each has one. Among the newcomers will be the body's first Ethiopian-Israeli woman, Penina Tamnu-Shata of Yesh Atid, an attorney who immigrated to Israel at age 3 during Operation Moses.

The end of Kadima: Twice in its short history, the Kadima leader occupied the prime minister's office. But in just one election cycle, the party went from Israel's largest faction to just two seats. Various factors doomed Kadima: the rise of Yesh Atid, whose socioeconomic-focused platform and charismatic leader peeled away centrist voters; Livni's failure to gain adherents for Kadima and subsequent defection to her new party, Hatnua; and Shaul Mofaz's decision to join, albeit briefly, the Likud-led ruling coalition. It's not the end of centrist politics in Israel, but it appears to be nearly the end of the road for the party started by Ariel Sharon as a breakaway from Likud.

Bibi weakened: Netanyahu supporters used to herald him as Bibi, King of Israel. So did Time magazine just a few months ago. But with the combined Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu list falling by a quarter after what was widely panned as a lackluster campaign, it's difficult to make the case that Netanyahu's star is burning brighter. He's almost sure to capture the premiership again -- now comes the horse trading that is Israeli coalition building — but it seems it will be more for lack of an alternative than enthusiasm for Netanyahu.

Hello, Naftali Bennett: If there was any enthusiasm on the right wing this time, it appeared to be for Naftali Bennett, leader of the newly constituted Jewish Home party (itself a successor to the National Religious Party). The party captured 11 seats, up from just three as the NRP in the last Knesset. Bennett, who supports annexation of parts of the West Bank, is likely to apply pressure on Netanyahu to shift further right on security issues. ■



Making thinking visible

Hadar Dohn and Jennifer Rosenberg, special to WJN

What is thinking? When you tell someone you are thinking, what kinds of things might actually be going on in your head?" These are the questions we asked ourselves as we as embarked on an in-depth look at thinking – ours and our students'. As a part of our professional learning practices, the HDS teachers have begun a book study of the text *Making Thinking Visible*, by Ritchhart, Church, and Morrison from Project Zero (http://www.pz.harvard.edu). The book encourages us to develop the capacities and processes for understanding and expressing thinking in service to its connection to understanding and engagement. In our discussion of this text, we are breaking apart chapters and engaging in dialogue about strategies, routines and elements of instruction that will not only guide learners to develop and strengthen their thinking skills, but also their skills in expressing this thinking.

HDS faculty members Jennifer Rosenberg and Carol Gannon invest time in professional development.

Morah Leah Kessler opened class one day with this message, "I've been thinking a lot about thinking lately and I'm curious about what's going on inside your heads when you think."

Thinking is invisible and one of the challenges this book extends is an opportunity to think about and develop skills to help make this invisible process more visible. In doing so, we gain a wider lens into not only what our students understand, but also how they are understanding it. "This book has inspired me to investigate what awareness my students have of their own thinking, as well as their ability to articulate it," reflects second grade general studies teacher, Leah Kessler. Morah Leah, as she is called by her students, began to explore this curiosity with her class by modeling her own interest in the idea. She opened class one day with this message, "I've been thinking a lot about thinking lately and I'm curious about what's going on inside your heads when you think." She started posing engaging, open-ended questions to her class such as, "When you are doing math, do you see numbers in your head? If not, what do you see?" and "Do you think in color?" These types of questions open the door to the kinds of conversations that facilitate and clarify thinking.

Looking deeply at various aspects of students' thinking provide us with a tremendous amount of information to aid in the planning and assessment for learning (formative) and of learning (summative). A student was tackling a math problem by looking at number patterns. He filled in the three-digit numbers in a peculiar way and explained that since he noticed that the numbers were "minus ten" he did not need to think about the "ones" and the "hundreds." He first filled in all the missing numbers with the hundreds and ones 8___5, 8___5, etc. and later went in to fill in the tens, 865, 855, etc. The ability to notice patterns and reason about them are critical goals in the common core standards in mathematics. Helping students identify and articulate their thinking not only leads the student to understanding his or her own thinking, but also the assists the teacher in determining the conceptions and misconceptions that will ultimately inform instruction.

In designing our professional learning, we strive to study topics that help us refine the learning and teaching that takes place at our school. We continuously look at new research and explore a variety of opportunities for study. We read articles, evaluate student work, observe each other's teaching, and attend workshops. Being able to discuss thought processes, make connections, formulate questions and reason concretely and abstractly are some of the areas of focus for conversations about thinking. We firmly believe that both teachers and students should engage in learning activities that pique their interest and inspire them to want to explore further. This book study has been such a springboard for HDS teachers and staff. ■

To learn more about Hebrew Day School, call 971-4633 or email to office@hdsaa.org

JCC's new camp, youth & family director

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor welcomes Michael Sandweiss as their new Camp, Youth and Family Programs Director.

Michael Sandweiss

Sandweiss most recently served as the camp and site director at Camp Jacobson/Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center in Old Westbury, New York. Prior to that, he was the director of athletics at the Jean and Samuel Frankel Jewish Academy of Metropolitan Detroit. During his tenure at the school, he spent his summer's working as the Director of Specialty Camps at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

Sandweiss has held significant leadership positions and brings variety of experience from both the education and camping worlds. He spent several summers working at residential camps in Michigan, North Carolina and Canada. He was also both a teacher and athletic director at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Sandweiss is looking forward to bringing his enthusiasm and passion for children to the JCC and Camp Raanana. He is married to wife Jackie, and has two daughters, Emma (9) and Madeline (6). When not at work, he enjoys spending time with his children, playing golf and cooking.

For more information on Camp Raanana or youth and family programs, contact Michael at michaelsandweiss@jccfed.org or 971-0990. ■

ECC enrollment begins March 4

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

As in past years, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor Early Childhood Center will be accepting applications for child care and pre-school programs for the coming school year beginning Monday, March 4, for children and siblings currently enrolled in the ECC. Applications from member families of JCC affiliate organizations (Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Hebrew Day School, Jewish Cultural Society, etc.) will be accepted beginning Monday March 11. Enrollment for the general public begins Monday, March 18.

The ECC offers programs for children ages 2 months to 5 years. Infants thrive in the ECC's newly re-designed infant rooms, and children over the age of 3 can participate in full- and half-day preschool programs designed to prepare children for kindergarten. The ECC's Active Learning HighScope approach provides a responsive curriculum that allows teachers to challenge and nurture children at all developmental levels. Language and literacy, math, science, social studies, and physical development are combined with Jewish celebrations and values to create an integrated curriculum.

This year, the state of Michigan is starting the process of rolling back the kindergarten entry date from December 1 to September 1. With Michigan's adoption this year, along with 44 other states, of the Common Core Standards for K–12 education the state has decided that meeting common standards demands having the same kindergarten entry date as those other states. So what does this mean for families? Long-term, it means that all children will be 5 years old upon kindergarten entry. But short term, it means that many children who had been tracking to enter kindergarten this fall will have to wait for another year. The ECC is planning a new program that will challenge these veteran preschoolers and meet their changing needs.

For more information about the JCC Early Childhood Center, contact Early Childhood Director Peretz Hirshbein at 971-0990 or ecc@jccfed.org. ■

Registration now open for Camp Gan Israel

Mendy Rimler, special to the WJN

Summer on the mind yet?

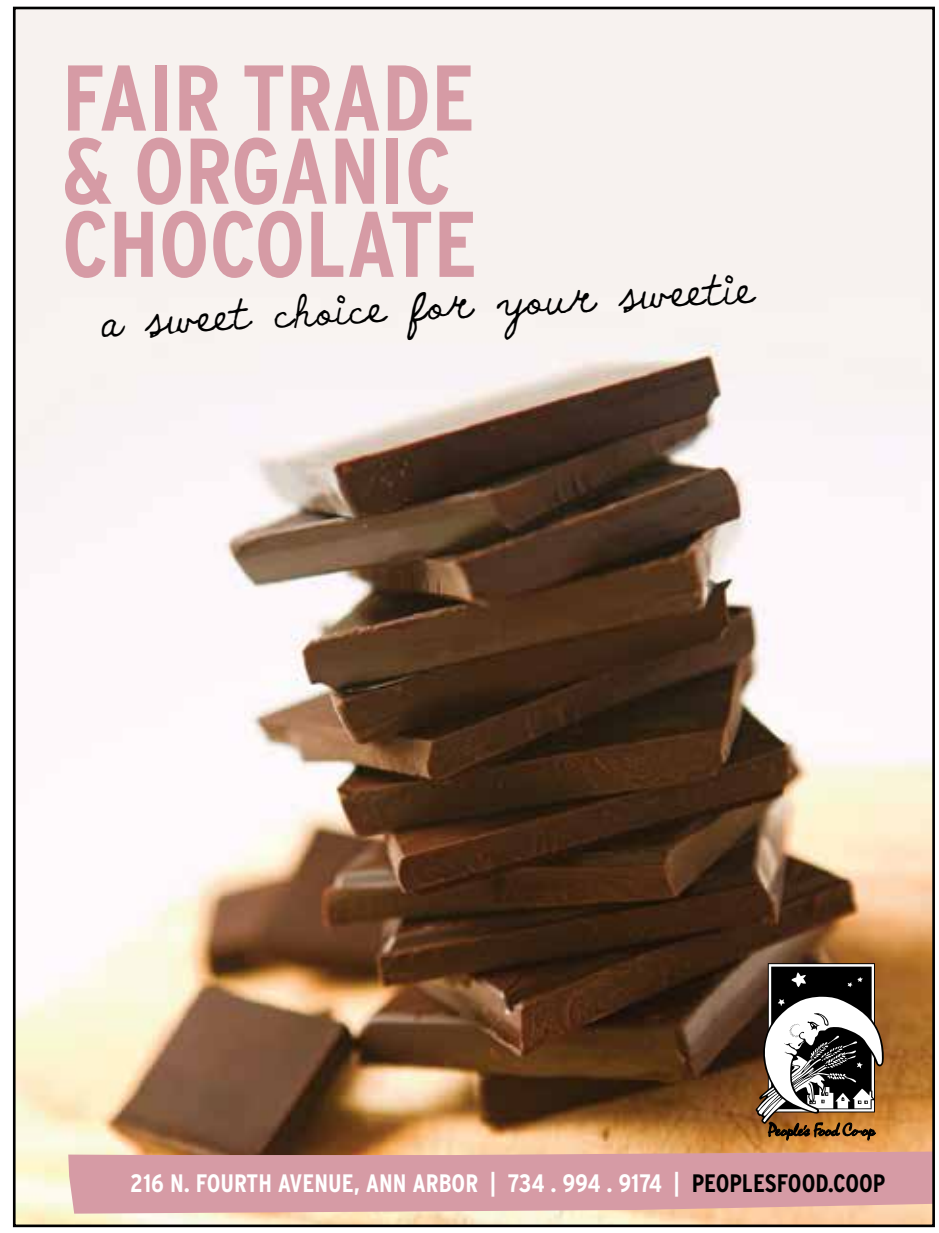
This year's camping season at Camp Gan Israel in Ann Arbor, kicks off on June 24, but early registration will begin on February 15. This summer, Camp Gan Israel will debut new health and fitness activities where children can gain a deeper appreciation for healthy living and nutritious eating habits.

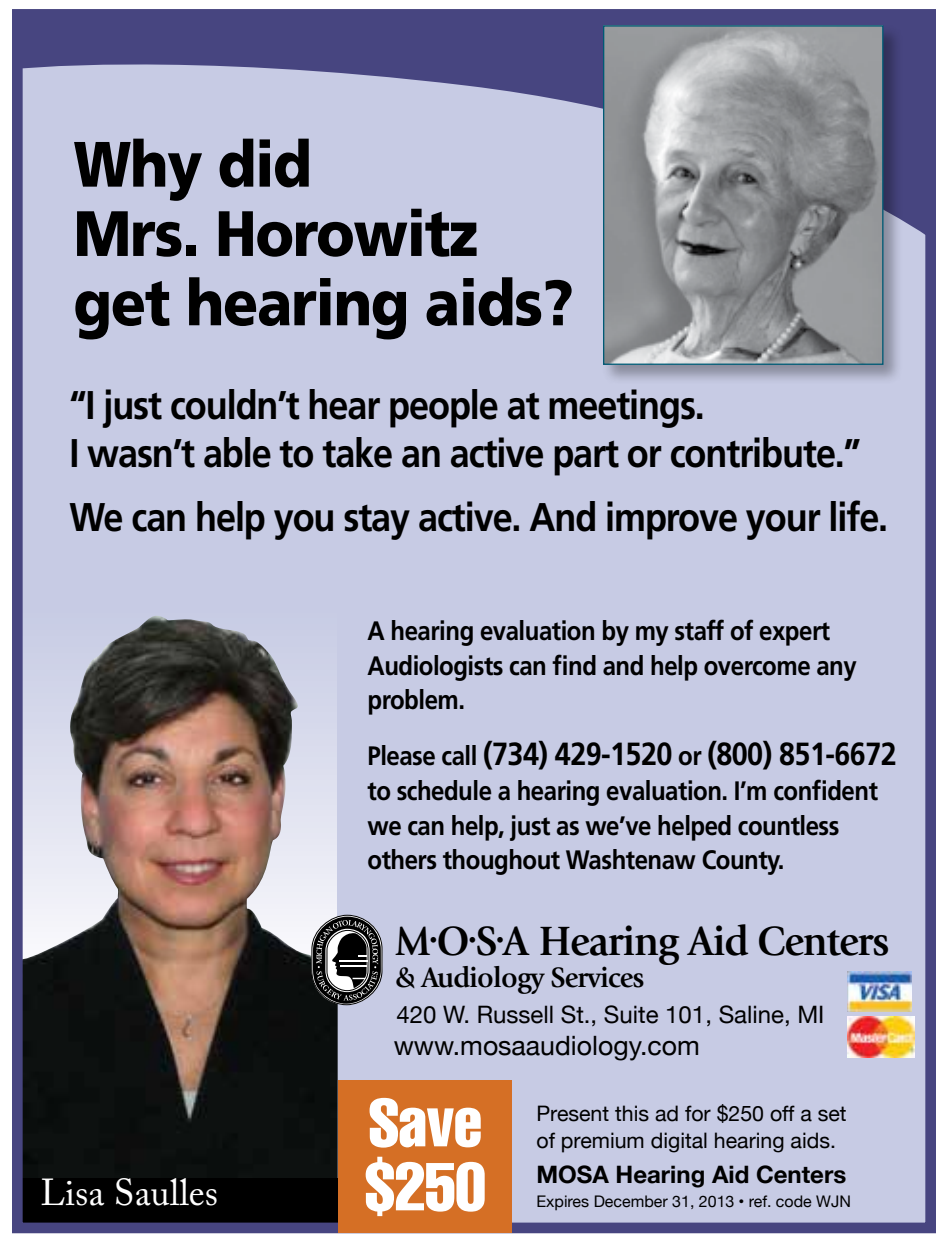
The mainstay activities will also be offered this year. At "funshops," children can choose their own adventure with activities that range from magic, science, balloon twisting, and creative cooking to chess, dance, ultimate Frisbee, and woodworking. i9 Sports will be once again headline the sports schedule.

"By introducing the health and fitness aspect at camp, our goal this summer is to help kids understand the impacts of the things they do on a regular basis to their bodies," says Shternie Zwiebel, director of the camp. "Basic activities like eating and playing will take on a new depth, and our campers will learn to be more responsible of their health."

There will be two field trips a week, and will include destinations like ice skating, bowling, water parks, rock climbing, and children's museums. The Pioneers program for children entering grades 5–8 will feature rock climbing, horseback riding, chef camp, movie camp, a two-day trip to Cedar Point, and two-day overnight trip.

Camp for 2013 runs June 24 through August 9. For more information, call 995-3276 *5 or email director@mycampganisrael.com. ■





Hava Nagila film chronicles song's journey from shtetl to cliché

By Chavie Lieber

NEW YORK (JTA)—You're at a wedding or bar mitzvah, mingling at the bar or catching up with a distant relative, when you hear it—the opening notes of a familiar tune that as if by some invisible force carries you and other guests to the dance floor for the rousing dance circle ritual.

Does *Hava Nagila* work this kind of magic because it was handed down at Sinai and thus encoded in the Jewish DNA? Or is it a tale from the European *shtetl*, albeit one with a timeless message and an irrepressible melody?

It is these questions that Roberta Grossman addresses in her new film, *Hava Nagila (The Movie)*, which will screen at the upcoming New York Jewish Film Festival before hitting theaters nationwide in March. The film, three years in the making, explores the phenomenon behind the iconic folk song and seeks to explain why the melody has been so beloved over the years.

"When I first started doing research for the film, people thought I was crazy and I was worried I wouldn't find anything substantial enough," Grossman told JTA. "But what I really found was that this song is a porthole into 200 years of Judaism's culture and spirituality."

Grossman's inspiration for the film came from memories of dancing to the song at family affairs. A product of what she calls a "religiously assimilated but culturally affiliated" background, Grossman said twirling with family members while *Hava Nagila* blared in the background was a tribal moment with spiritual resonance. Part of a generation raised on the 1971 film adaption of *Fiddler on the Roof*, she knew the song cold but understood little about its origins.

Turns out, it doesn't go back nearly as far as Sinai. The song was first sung as a Chasidic *niggun*, or wordless melody, in the court of the Ruzhiner rebbe, Israel Friedman, who lived in the Ukrainian town of Sadagora in the 18th century.

A Jewish shtetl in the Pale of Settlement, Sadagora often was subjected to pogroms, and Chasidic leaders encouraged music as a way to combat the tragedies of everyday life. When a wave of European immigrants moved to Israel in the early 1900s, they took their niggun with them, where it later became representative of Zionist culture.

In 1915, the prominent musicologist Abraham Zevi Idelsohn adapted the song with Hebrew lyrics. Three years later he unveiled his new variation at a Jerusalem concert. "Hava Nagila," literally "let us rejoice," went on to hit its peak popularity in the 1950s and '60s, and became a favorite pop tune for American Jews.

"It's unclear if Idelsohn really knew the extent of how far his song would go, but after that concert celebrating the British victory in Palestine, the streets of Jerusalem erupted and the song took off," said Mark Kligman, a professor of Jewish musicology at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

"Israel was a vacuum at that point, with immigrants from all over who had very little in common. They were dealing with their identity, and the need for music, and this song unified them," he said.

Decades later, the same is true. The song is widely covered—Bob Dylan, Ben Folds and Regina Spektor have performed it. Last summer it was the soundtrack for U.S. Olympian Ally Raisman's gold medal-winning performance in the floor exercise at the London Games. And though The Wall Street Journal noted recently that some see it as cliche and avoid having it played it at their affairs—Grossman refers to these folks as "Hava haters"—it may be the most popular Jewish song on the planet.

In the film, which includes a hora dancing tutorial, Grossman journeys to Sadagora as well as other obscure places where the song hit. The film notes how popular *Hava Nagila* became with non-Jewish music lovers and features musicians such as Lena Horne, the Cuban-American salsa performer Celia Cruz and the pop singer Connie Francis.

Grossman skillfully portrays *Hava Nagila* as a symbol of American Jewish identity and postulates that future generations will continue to see the song as iconic—with or without the eye rolls. Through the film, she seeks to give the song some depth beyond the overplayed ditty at bar mitzvahs. Viewers must decide if the song can still be redeemed.

"I believe that Hava has actually accrued a great deal of meaning and depth on its long journey from Ukraine to YouTube," Grossman said. "Hava's journey is our journey. By understanding where Hava has come from, we understand where we have come from and more." ■

Justice in a gray world

By Robert Nicholson

Israel uses the pretense of law to dominate and disenfranchise Palestinians in the territories. So argues Ra'anan Alexandrowicz in his documentary *The Law in These Parts*, a recent favorite on the New York film circuit. Since the film has garnered nearly universal acclaim, it is appropriate to ask whether the judgment is deserved.

The film aims to examine Israel's military regime in the Palestinian territories since the Six-Day War. Israel, the movie tells us, has used a species of "law" — in reality, a framework of control masquerading as law — to govern the territories for Israel's exclusive benefit. Rather than extend Israeli law to the territories, Israel devised a military regime that pilfers Palestinian land while citing "emergency conditions" to deny the Palestinians basic human rights. Israel resurrected obscure Ottoman land laws to justify Jewish settlement and, worse, manipulated these laws to prefer Jews to native Arabs. Israel's allowing Palestinians to petition the High Court of Justice for redress of grievances does not bespeak Israeli liberality; rather, it cleverly reinforces Israeli hegemony by giving it the stamp of legality whenever the Court rules in favor of the state, which is often.

Alexandrowicz acknowledges his subjective gaze. But his admission of subjectivity cannot relieve him of responsibility for the film's faults.

The major fault is the film's narrow perspective. The Israeli military is put on trial for its life with almost no reference to the complex situation that gave rise to the occupation. The narrative effectively begins in June 1967 with Israel's preemptive attack on three Arab states. Gaza and the West Bank appear to have been utopias before the arrival of the Israeli juggernaut. No mention is made of the way their previous occupiers, Egypt and Jordan, governed the territories between 1948 and 1967. Little attention is given to the murderous Palestinian "fedayeen," whose insurgency doomed any hopes for normalcy. After a few court cases are mentioned and broad conclusions drawn, the narrative cuts off abruptly around 2000 with barely a hint of subsequent events — like the Gaza disengagement. Everything, it seems, can be blamed on Israel's military lawyers.

In fact, however, Israel's military regime was not born ex nihilo. It is undeniable — though Alexandrowicz does not mention it — that Israel's attack was directed at states openly calling for Israel's destruction just two decades after the Holocaust. After the war, Israel found itself in control of historic hotbeds of anti-Israel sentiment populated by a million hostile Palestinians. Confronted with the prospect of an extended occupation, Israel set out to establish transitional justice complying with international law.

Alexandrowicz condemns Israel for refusing to extend its own law to the Palestinian territories, yet the Hague Regulations require an occupying power to maintain the existing laws of an occupied territory, except for reasons of public order and security. The filmmaker tells how Ariel Sharon invoked the Ottoman law of *mawat* (dead or unused) land to allow Jewish settlement and expects his audience to be incredulous — yet the Ottoman Land Code was, and is, the legal regime governing the West Bank. It may not have been wise, but there was nothing radical about Sharon's applying the law of *mawat*.

In his most outrageous leap, Alexandrowicz argues that Israel's allowing Palestinians to petition the High Court is an underhanded way of legitimating the occupation. In fact, Israel granted this concession despite the absence of any historical precedent. The film does not mention the important cases in which the High Court has ruled against the state.

The issue of Jewish settlement is more difficult. Alexandrowicz explains the inequality between Palestinians, living under military rule, and Jewish settlers, who enjoy the protections of Israeli law. This accusation of procedural and substantive inequality is the film's one major criticism that sticks.

Reviewers have quoted Brig. Gen. Dov Shefi, who says in the film that "order and justice don't always go hand in hand." While this is true, Col. Oded Pesensson's description of the West Bank legal environment as a "gray world" seems more compelling. We are not speaking here of dispassionate bystanders applying abstract notions of justice to distant events but of a military administration forced by war to govern a hostile territory until political leaders negotiate a solution. A tension between order and justice does not seem all that remarkable.

Some Palestinians have suffered injustice in recent decades, and the film is right to remind us of that. Yet justice is an elusive concept in this grayest of worlds, and the Israeli military regime is an outgrowth of the conflict, not the source of its evils. Enumerating its shortcomings is valid, but the exercise must at least apprise the audience of the historical, political and legal complexity surrounding it. *Law in These Parts* fails in this obligation. ■

Robert Nicholson is a 2012–13 Tikvah Fellow. This article was first published by Jewish Ideas Daily *(www.jewishideasdaily.com) and is reprinted with permission.*

Noreen DeYoung honored at JCC celebration

On Saturday evening, January 12, the community gathered to celebrate Noreen DeYoung's 25 years of service to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. Families, teachers, colleagues, adult alumni, and community leaders joined together to tell stories about Noreen, remember their time at the JCC Early Childhood Center, and dance to the Klezmer music of Neal Alexander's band.

1. Ann Arbor JCC Board President, Harriet Bakalar honoring Noreen DeYoung
2. Honoree Noreen DeYoung's family (Nicole Pemo, Josh DeYoung, Noreen DeYoung, Ray DeYoung, Jude Kander, Jessica Kander and Jake Kander)
3. Rabbi Ilana Baden and new Ann Arbor JCC director, Jeff Baden
4. Haley Margolis and Jerry Lax
5. Gabe Rosenberg, Jesse Rosenberg, Levi Rosenberg, Sam Greenberg and Gracie Greenberg
6. Linda and Zoe Gerkin
7. Robin Axelrod, Harriet Bakalar, Elaine Margolis and Edwin Tobes
8. Jamie Tauber and baby
9. Theresa Theophilos and Noreen DeYoung
10. Naya and Bohdi Loftus dancing
11. Past and present JCC /Early Childhood Center faculty and staff (Lisa Brown, Kim Braun, Rhonda Smiley, Susan Horowitz, Leah Kleiner Gunsberg, Michelle Paris, Katy Czarnecki)
12. Nancy Margolis, JoEllen Gutterman and Rabbi Bob Levy
13. Former student of DeYoung, Emily Kahan
14. Judy Lax and Heather Dombey
15. Israeli folk dancing
16. Ray DeYoung and Noreen DeYoung

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Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close is moving and inspiring

Rachel Urist, staff writer

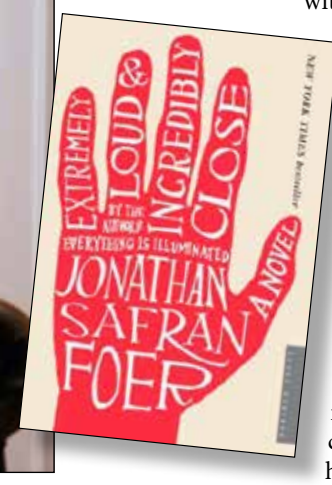
After hearing Jonathan Safran Foer's charming and evocative talk at Federation's Main Event last fall, I turned to his second novel, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. I had already read *Everything is Illuminated*, his first book, and I am a great fan of his recent *American Haggadah*, newly re-translated by Nathan Englander, with commentaries by four contemporary Jewish scholars. In Foer's talk in Ann Arbor, he provided a first-hand demonstration of his unusual mind. Sentences that seemed predictable took unexpected turns. The man is as full of surprises as his wonderful novel, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*.

Jonathan Safran Foer

In it, he imagines a nine year old, Oskar, whose brain fires nonstop in the wake of his father's demise in the Twin Towers on 9/11. The barrage of thoughts, questions, associations, plans, ideas, and ruminations keep him focused, determined to find a way to reach his father—or some understanding of the events. Foer creates a method by which his protagonist, Oskar Schell, embarks on his quest. Deep in his father's bedroom closet, Oskar finds a vase. Inside the vase is an envelope. Inside the envelope is a key with the word "Black" written on it. Oscar sets out to discover what the key unlocks. First he looks up every person named "Black" in New York City. Then he spends almost a year of weekends visiting these people to ask what, if anything, they know about the key.

He treks through all five boroughs of the city. Fearing elevators, trains, planes, and many other means of transport, he spends a good deal of time on foot. With no idea of what he will find, he finds himself often wearing "heavy boots," his shorthand for feeling that the weight of the world rests on his shoulders. His thoughts dart from one to the next. This is an intellectually precocious kid who cannot fathom a world that will not conform to the methodical processes of his logical mind. He grows desperate.

The boy never finds answers, but he does find a companion on his trek, and eventually he finds his long-absent grandfather. The book becomes a study of family relationships—spousal, filial, parental. Following the boy's manic thought processes is a continual reminder of the creative and idiosyncratic mind of the book's author. Oskar's mind is continually flooded with ideas and associations, the kind of mind that many of us associate with Asperger's Syndrome. He remembers the intellectual games he played with his father, including looking for mistakes in the *New York Times.* The snap, crackle and pop of Oskar's brain evokes the chaos of 9/11, the day that refuses to end. Anyone old enough to read this book today remembers the images that haunt this protagonist: planes flying into the towers, firefighters running in, hoards running down the streets of Manhattan, papers flying, clouds of ash, fear, confusion, panic. Foer funnels it all into this book, turning horror into an almost surreal fantasy.



Foer's wit flits about the book, along with Oskar's uncanny insights. Foer regularly turns emotion into prose. When the boy feels overwhelmed by sorrow, he recreates whole conversations with his lost father, a feat easily accomplished, with his photographic memory. Oskar cannot rest until he learns how his father died and where he has gone. Did he jump? Was he incinerated? Was he buried alive? The images seared into his brain (and ours) return to haunt him. Oskar may close his eyes, but the visions persist. Transposing those images into in artful prose, Foer offers us Oskar's visions:

Bodies falling.
People waving shirts out of high windows.
Planes going into buildings.
Bodies falling.
Planes going into buildings.
People covered in gray dust.
Bodies falling.
Buildings falling.
Planes going into buildings.
Planes going into buildings.
Buildings falling.

Numbers, too, figure large. In Foer's variation of *g'matriah* (numerology), he has Oskar contemplate numbers for deeper meaning. This exercise leads to several baffling pages of nothing but numbers, which drive home Oscar's desperation to understand what has happened. Among Oskar's obsessions is Stephen Hawking, whose book, *A Brief History of Time*, serves as a potent symbol for all that wears Oskar down. For the boy, time has been compressed into a single day, a single hour. He takes to writing to Stephen Hawking. He gets many form replies. His initial letter says, simply: "Dear Stephen Hawking, Can I please be your protégé? Thanks, Oskar Schell."

When, in a school play, Oskar plays Yorick, Foer's imagination takes us into the boy's flights of fancy. Playing a skeleton, Oskar suddenly holds forth extemporaneously—and silently—in a rant that would make the heavens cringe. The book also incorporates photos and strange typefaces that further imprint Oskar's soul on the reader. The photos are ordinary objects: a doorknob, a window, a falling cat (to note the parachute effect of its body), and an exterior wall of the world trade center with a single body in free fall beside it. Ordinary markers morph into the signs of these extraordinary times—and the boy's compulsive pursuit.

Like the unpredictable endings of Foer's sentences during his talk at the Federation event, his book, too, brings unexpected twists. In keeping with his precocity, Oskar comes to understand that he is helpless to change the past. What's lost cannot be reclaimed. But he can justify his survival by making this journey. And we, the readers, cover vast emotional tracts in this tender, clever, and astonishing work. Great novelists of our time have already weighed in on this work. Cynthia Ozick says: "Jonathan Safran Foer's funny, tender, tragic, ingeniously imaginative *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* has all the kick and brio of a child's wild vision and a child's wild hurt. Foer's nine year old Oskar Schell, confronting the cataclysm of our time, is an American original." Salman Rushkie says: "Jonathan Safran Foer's second novel is everything one hoped it would be—ambitious, pyrotechnic, riddling, and above all, in its portrait of orphaned Oskar, extremely moving. …An exceptional achievement."

I cannot say it any better. ■

Non-local banks think Alice Lloyd Hall was the maid on the Brady Bunch.

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David Broza uses power of music to bridge the divide

Sandor Slomovits, special to the WJN

In late December I attended an unusual collaborative concert at The Berman Center for Performing Arts at the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. The evening featured David Broza along with faculty members and students of the Polyphony Foundation. Guitarist, and singer/songwriter, Broza has been a familiar name to audiences, Jewish and non-Jewish, in Israel, the U.S. and internationally, since the late 1970s, and he's appeared in Detroit many times before. Polyphony, by contrast is a relative newcomer on the music scene; their initial U.S. tour was in late 2011 and they first came to Detroit in June of 2012 when they played a concert at Troy's Congregation Shir Tikvah.

The Polyphony Foundation is a U.S. based non-profit that seeks to, in their own words, "Use the power of music to bridge the divide between Arab and Jewish communities in Israel. The Polyphony Foundation funds music education and other innovative programs to serve Arab and Jewish youth in Israel so that they and their families can come together through classical music. Polyphony's programs are based on the principle that classical music has a unique power to transcend cultural and social boundaries and that creating new channels for engagement between young members of Israel's diverse communities is an essential step towards the creation of a just and peaceful society in Israel. Polyphony currently reaches more than 2,000 Arab and Jewish young people and provides training and employment for over 40 musicians and teachers."

The concert I saw in December featured Polyphony's Young Galilee Flute Quartet, consisting of two Jewish and two Arab young musicians, along with violinist and Polyphony founder Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar, pianist and Polyphony faculty member Ron Trachtman and of course, Mr. Broza. The concert opened with the quartet playing Mozart's String Quartet in D Major with the flute taking the first violin part. Seventeen year old flautist, Mais Hriesh, sixteen year old violinist, Feras Machour, sixteen year old violist Tamar Gaon, and sixteen year old cellist Hagit Bar Sella all began studying and playing their instruments as young children and all already have garnered impressive awards and credentials, and deservedly so. Their technical facility and musicality were immediately evident, and the music soared. But what was perhaps even more impressive was the visual impact of two Jewish and two Arab young people communicating and cooperating so intensely and beautifully. To play classical chamber music at all, much less very, very well, as they did, demands an extremely high level of communication—both listening and conveying information—between the players. I found myself very moved listening to the glorious music, and imagining the many hours these young people had spent together, interacting with each other to create something so beautiful. It was easy to imagine that they now understood each other, and perhaps trusted and cared for each other far more than when they first met.

David Broza rehearsing with members of the Polyphony Foundation

After the Mozart, Feras Machour played a superb rendition of the familiar *Méditation* from Thaïs, followed by Hagit Bar Sella performing beautifully on a Brahms cello Sonata. Both young players were expertly accompanied on piano by Ron Trachtman, who then also joined Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar for a stunning Beethoven violin Sonata. Again, seeing and hearing an Arab and a Jewish musician creating beauty together was powerfully moving on many different levels.

And then came the highlight of the evening. David Broza took center stage to a very warm reception. From the first few notes and chords that he played on his guitar, you knew you were witnessing something unique and masterful. Broza has fashioned a striking blend of guitar styles, from flamenco and folk, to blues, rock and pop. His well-worn, nylon string guitar, electrified for amplification and for some tone modification, sounded at times like a classical harp, then like a rock guitar, then flamenco, at times like a drum kit and, occasionally like all of them at once. Broza's voice is an agile, expressive, robust instrument too and the combination of his singing and playing was arresting. When the young quartet joined him, their classical styled arrangements backing Broza's already unique sound, they raised the evening's memorable music making to a new, even higher level.

Beyond his musical prowess, Broza has long had a reputation for harnessing the power of his songwriting and singing to humanitarian causes, to fostering tolerance through music, and in particular to working for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Many of his song lyrics reflect these passions, so his collaboration with Polyphony is a natural. Broza only became acquainted with Polyphony in June of 2012 and joined the non-profit's board of directors soon after. This was the first time that he and the Polyphony students performed together. In fact, they only met and rehearsed for the first time that morning. But he said after the concert, "I hope to continue developing my musical encounters with Polyphony." And Abboud-Ashkar added, "We hope that this is only the beginning of our collaboration with David Broza."

Polyphony members in a recent interview with WRCJ radio station in Detroit

I left the concert feeling hopeful that joint efforts like this might eventually lead to the day when Jewish and Arab musicians will share a stage, and no one will even notice or remark on that aspect of the program, but will only see and hear human beings making music together. ■

Morocco: We're still here

Joanne Steuer, special to the WJN

Casablanca. The taxi took us through congested Casablanca traffic, from the Hassan II, the third largest mosque in the world, to the Moroccan Jewish Museum. This is the only Jewish museum in an Islamic country. Our driver said he knew the place. But when we arrived in the suburban Casablanca neighborhood he couldn't find it. He called out to an elderly man wearing a *djellaba* (a Moroccan style overcoat), who was taking the sun outside a large white house. Immediately, two policemen leapt from their chairs and rapidly approached our taxi. We had arrived.

We were four women, including the *Washtenaw Jewish News* editor, traveling with a tour group through Morocco. This was our excursion without the rest of our group.

A pristine white washed wall shields the museum from the street. In the small vestibule protecting the entrance was the museum guard standing on his prayer rug facing away from us and praying. Ahead was an empty courtyard laced with white brick paths across very green grass. A few small trees accented the shapes of the paths. A *hamsa*, the symbol used by both Moslems and Jews, hung over the museum entrance. Walking into the building we passed an easel displaying a picture of the current King of Morocco.

A caretaker let us in and asked for the entrance fee. "I'm with the Jewish press," said the editor. "You're Jewish. You pay," replied the caretaker. We laughed and signed in. We each paid 25 durum (approximately $3) and the caretaker turned on the lights. Although we had called ahead there was no one to guide us through the exhibits. Unfortunately for us all the explanations were in French. That left us all a little challenged linguistically. But we managed.

The museum was founded in 1997 with the support of the Foundation of Jewish-Moroccan Cultural Heritage. The Foundation's goal is to "bear witness" to the 2,000 years of Jewish life in Morocco, all trace of which is rapidly disappearing and being distorted by rewritten history. In a You Tube video of a Moroccan group visiting the museum, a young man said he didn't even know there had been Jews in Morocco.

Certainly, successive waves of emigration have reduced the Jewish-Moroccan community to a very small minority. Today approximately 5,000 Jewish people are living in all of Morocco, in contrast to the more than a quarter million who lived here in 1948. There are several explanations of why the Jews left in large numbers after 1948. One story, told by the Muslim guide from our tour group, is the Moroccan king expelled Jews at the request of Israel. Israel needed farmers and other types of craftsmen to populate the new country and the King obliged. Israel certainly wanted the Moroccan Jews and encouraged them to emigrate. However, there is another version to the story. It seems that Morocco was no more hospitable to the Jews than many European countries. And in 1948, there were riots against the Jews. Possibly this may have encouraged people to leave. By 1956 so many had moved to Israel that the King became concerned the other Arab nations would blame him for populating the new state. He therefore prohibited emigration to Israel. He lifted the ban in 1963 and another 8,000 Jews left Morocco.

In the first of the 4 exhibition rooms of the museum were photos of before and after restoration of old and abandoned synagogues. These attest to the extensive emigration. The photos showed synagogues from villages, towns and large cities. The architecture ranged from small Berber type buildings with rough white washed adobe walls to the highly decorative plasterwork on the walls and ceiling of the synagogue in Tangier.

Religious objects were in the second room. Here there were the *Kiddush* cups and *teffillim*. Here were Torah pointers and menorahs, all clearly of Moroccan design. Perhaps the most unusual item was the *Meghillat-Hitler*. The explanation accompanying the exhibit stated that it is a Moroccan tradition to produce other *meghilla* than that of Esther. For example, every year on the first of Elul a congregation in Tangiers read a *Meghillat* commemorating the 1578 defeat and death of Sebastian of Portugal. Sebastian was the king who forced Sephardic Jews to leave Portugal.

The *Meghillat-Hitler* was created in 1943 in Casablanca to celebrate the Allied victory in North Africa and the rescue of the Jews of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria from the Nazis. But even this story has another side. According to Dr. Rafael Medoff, in an article in the *Jewish Journal* in March, 2011, the Vichy Office of Jewish Affairs continued to operate in Morocco and Jews continued to be persecuted for at least another year. The *Meghillat-Hitler* possibly may be a copy of a similar document in the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. But copy or not, it is powerful testimony to the faith and hopes of Moroccan Jews.

Displays of clothing were in the third room, as were exhibits about the types of work done by Moroccan Jews. They participated in all walks of Moroccan life. They worked as farmers and tailors, goldsmiths and silver smiths, wood workers and herders. Their clothes reflected their work and their country. Accompanying the clothes was a collection of Moroccan silver jewelry.

Down the hall a conference room held an exhibition of sepia photos of historic sites of Jewish Morocco. Also down the hall, on the wall of a room containing parts of a synagogue, was a 1933 governmental notice titled, "*Appel-A La Population Isrealite du Maroc*." This document urged the Moroccan Jewish population to speak Arabic because it was better for them and for the country.

The exhibitions required close attention. They were sparse and emotionally moving, particularly when thinking about 2,000 years in the country. A member of our group, Rona, summed it up at the end of our thought-provoking visit. "It's like the Jews never lived here and so someone is making sure they don't disappear," she said. ■

1. Leaders of the Moroccan Jewish community, early 1900s

2.Typical dress for Moroccan Jewish women, early 1900s

3. In front of the Jewish Museum.(l. to r.) Susan Ayer, Ruth Ann Bromley, Rona Kaplan, and Joanne Steuer

4. Megillat Hitler

For more information on the 15 day Morocco Sahara Odyssey trip, go to oattravel.com and click on Our Adventures, Africa, Morocco.

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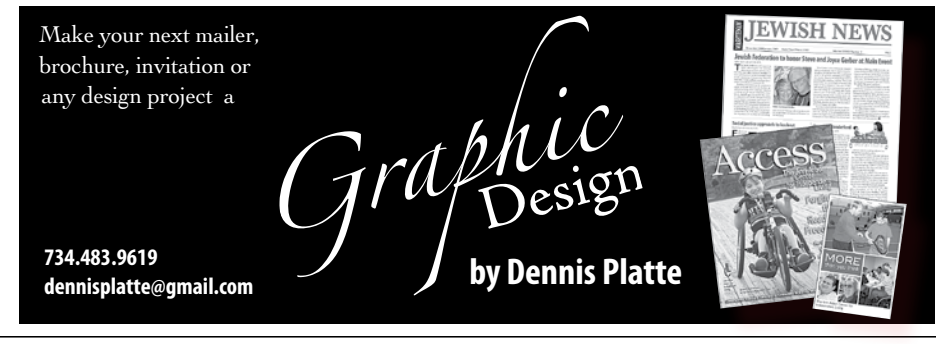

Jewish women nurture, celebrate, and nourish thru food work, part 2

Mary Bilyeu, staff writer

In the Summer, 2012 issue of this paper, I wrote about some wonderful women who contribute in numerous and different ways to the food industry here in Ann Arbor. There was such a warm, enthusiastic response to the article that it seemed like an excellent notion to introduce you to several other women who are demonstrating still more diversity in this field—from catering with an international flair to baking treats for those on special diets, from managing a bakehouse that features classic Jewish items to working in restaurant kitchens and facilitating the composting of food waste. Whether showcasing the variety and tradition of Jewish dishes or engaging in *tikkun olam*, these four women are a significant reason that Ann Arbor's food scene is thriving.

Amanda Fisher

Julie Rabinovitz

Amy Emberling

Nikki Klein

Amanda Fisher

Amanda Fisher has "always had a passion for food," which is "a major part of (her) heritage." Having been raised in a kosher home, food "was always important in our family, not only making sure there was food on the table, but as a cultural tie to the past." Her mother's family had lived in Cairo; but in 1956—after the Suez Canal crisis, and as a result of the subsequent Egyptian decree which not only accused Jews of being "Zionists and enemies of the state" but which also ordered their expulsion—"being Jewish they had to evacuate the only country they had ever known with one suitcase each .... Their large tightly-knit family was forced to split up throughout the world to Israel, France, South Africa and the USA." Her maternal grandparents and their children found themselves transplanted to Birmingham, England, where Fisher was brought up. Food, therefore, reinforced ties to the extended family and to tradition.

Fortunate "to cook and learn (a continuous quest) in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Berkeley, San Francisco, and Boston" before moving to Ann Arbor nine years ago with her husband and two sons, Fisher has been able to indulge her "love and knowledge of cooking." Her culinary adventures began at the age of 18 when she left home with the intention of spending one year in Israel. "As happens to many people," though, she "just could not leave" and spent the next 12 years there, earning a degree in education and literature "whilst working for a caterer in Jerusalem and then in various restaurants." After that, Fisher was able to learn about "California cuisine" while her husband, Shackar Pinsker, completed his Ph.D. in Berkeley.

Her own relatives' enthusiasm for food—a connection "to their scattered family"— is "the foundation of (her) love for food and cooking." Fisher says, "It is always exciting for me to discover and experience food in different places with people who share my passion." And she enjoys being a part of others' celebrations as a caterer, "providing fresh and tasty food with a personal touch." This has helped to give her "a deeper understanding of different Jewish communities, and families coming together from far or near to share in dinners or simchas."

Amanda's Kitchen Catering
332-8981
amandaskitchencatering.com

Julie Rabinovitz

A native of Grand Ledge, and a graduate of both Lansing Community College and Michigan State University, Julie Rabinovitz tells of baking even when she was a little girl: "I loved to bake. My grandmother thought I would study to be a chef, but I was afraid I would end up hating it as it would be a "job."' But after being diagnosed with Celiac disease and moving to Ann Arbor, she thought this city would "be a great place to start (a new) venture": Tasty Bakery, which "offers high-end, gluten-free baked goods that are also soy-free." Many of the options—such as brownies, cookies, and pies—are vegan, dairy-free, and naturally sugar-free as well, using only "organic or natural ... and local ingredients whenever possible." Julie first started selling her treats at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market, but now they can be purchased there as well as Zingerman's Deli, Zingerman's Next Door, lab, The Glass House, Sweetwaters, Mighty Good Coffee, and Pilar's.

Rabinovitz met her Israeli husband, Ran, while on vacation in New Orleans; the couple later moved to New York before marrying in Israel, after Julie "converted to Judaism with a Modern Orthodox rabbi." She has worked in a variety of areas (non-profit, cosmetics, and music among them), including having "worked at a printing house in Brooklyn owned by Orthodox Jews. (She) learned so much from that experience around food and the holidays." Rabinovitz tries to offer traditional Jewish items—hamantaschen at Purim, challah, and apple honey cake at Rosh Hashanah—and would "like to try making matzah." She is determined to find success with sufganyot, too.

Noam, Julie's and Ran's son, was born while they lived in Brooklyn; the family then moved to Ann Arbor. While not religious (and Tasty Bakery is not certified kosher), they "practice on more of a traditional level. (They) light candles for Shabbat ... celebrate Passover with family, and go to the Reconstructionist services during the High Holidays." Noam attends the Hebrew Day School, and speaks Hebrew fluently. Julie says that the family is "happy we chose to live here. There is ... specifically a nice Jewish and Israeli culture here that is congruent with our life."

Tasty Baker
646-262-9793
tastysansgluten.com

Amy Emberling

Having worked at Zingerman's Bakehouse "since it opened in 1992," Amy Emberling "started as an eager baker" and then became a partner 12 years ago. The Bakehouse makes "traditional, full flavored artisanal breads, pastries and cakes ... (and) quite a variety of Jewish baked goods."

Emberling says, "I have always loved to eat, to cook and bake, to read about food and to watch food shows ... and after school, one of my favorite activities was to bake a new recipe from a cookbook I was studying. My brother nicknamed me Baker Woman." As Emberling puts it, "Food is a calling for me. For some reason it just speaks to me." She has worked at several restaurants (including The Earle), in addition to attending cooking school in Paris. "In the mid 1990s (she) decided to get a real job and went to business school and worked as a management consultant." She didn't enjoy this, though, and found she "missed the food, the teamwork." Emberling and her husband, Geoff, "happily returned to Ann Arbor" and she pursued her calling at the Bakehouse.

Raised in a Conservative household in Sydney, Nova Scotia—which has supported a Jewish community "since at least the early 1900s"—Amy's family "attended services every Friday night and Saturday morning," and she "went to Hebrew School twice a week from age 7 to 13" although "it wasn't a common choice for girls to have a bat mitzvah" and she did not celebrate this *simcha*. But she tells of a childhood that "was full of Jewish food and we enthusiastically celebrated the holidays .... I will forever wish to taste my Nanny's gefilte fish again and her chopped liver. Every weekend we had brunch where we ate bagels, lox, pickled herring and kippers. Often on Saturday evenings we had ... sandwiches with Montreal smoked meat and rye bread."

Emberling says that her "work in the food industry"—specifically at Zingerman's—"means that (she's) baked thousands more Jewish breads and pastries than (she) ever would have" if she'd chosen a different field; and "it also means that (she's) usually pretty tired" once a holiday arrives. So often "celebrating means managing to get a couple of pieces of gefilte fish from Zingerman's Delicatessen and eating them slowly, savoring every bite. Emberling takes "joy from providing food for other people's celebrations."

The Bakehouse has recently been offering traditional Hungarian foods, as "the largest Jewish community in Eastern Europe is in Budapest." Emberling had "thought it would be fantastic to connect with this community," and says, "I doubt this would have been interesting to me if I weren't Jewish." Zingerman's, of course, is noted for its Jewish baked goods; and, according to Emberling, "Having a personal connection to this food has helped me bring the food alive for my co-workers .... It has also allowed me to bring it alive for our non-Jewish customers."

Zingerman's Bakehouse
761-2095
zingermansbakehouse.com

Nikki Klein

Former Beth Israel Congregation Kitchen Coordinator Nikki Klein has worked in virtually every capacity of the food industry, from preparing meals to her current position as Business Development Representative with ReValue Waste, a company that composts the refuse from area restaurants. "We train their staff and provide a composting container.... We then weigh, sort, and compost at our local facility. Once degraded, we sell the compost, at cost, to local farmers." As Klein says, "We fit in perfectly and fulfill a needed role in the locavore and Slow Food movement(s)."

Originally from Shaker Heights, Ohio, Klein was raised in a "foodcentric" family that attended a Reform synagogue in addition to spending holidays at her maternal relatives' Conservative one. Her mother, Ilona, "cooked Jewish Hungarian food which (Klein) loved." "That was my comfort food growing up, and still is." Now, Klein and her three children have "Shabbat dinner almost every Friday night with challah, chicken soup with either noodles or matzoh balls, and generally steak or chicken," and her family "look(s) forward to Shabbat dinners together."

Klein "started working with food when (she) was 12 years old in a small family run ice cream and candy shop. From there (she) moved on to a cheese and wine specialty store," before studying Environmental Policy at The University of Michigan while also working at "a part time job at the Gandy Dancer." Moving to San Francisco after graduation brought management work in a vegan fine dining establishment and an "old fashioned (New York) style bagel shop" which was certified kosher. Once the shop was sold, however, it lost both its certification and a large customer base, which increased Klein's "understanding of how important *kashrut* is to a large number of people." After a detour to Los Angeles, Klein then returned to Ann Arbor just when "the foodie scene was exploding!"

"I would say that my work at Beth Israel ... made the biggest impact religiously on my life," according to Klein. After training directly with then-retiring kitchen coordinator Bernice Mark–from whom she "learned a TON"—Klein "came to the conclusion that kashrut is not black and white. One person's kosher is not necessarily another person's kosher—within a family, a congregation, or even on a broader level." In working with congregants and rabbis, Nikki "gained an appreciation of the value people place on their observance."

Working in restaurants or in other food-related businesses can be difficult for a woman: "It is not a profession that is 'family oriented.'" But Klein believes that it's possible to find both a niche and personal satisfaction. "It's a rewarding and dynamic profession, but it requires a lot more than a love of food or being a good cook. It requires endless passion and dedication ...." And it certainly helps that there is "so much support, love, and nurturing" in Ann Arbor's diverse Jewish community.

ReValue Waste
972-7294
revaluewaste.com

February 2013

Friday 1

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Family Shabbat Service honoring the 2nd Grade with Youth Choir and Middle School Shir Chadash at 7:30 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. Once a month gathering to welcome Shabbat with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah. Followed by a short thematic program in which members of the congregation offer their thoughts. Dinner and socializing after the service. Children always welcome. Held in the lounges of the JCC. Dinner is $10 per person or $25 for a family of four. RSVP online at www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 2

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

Parent Party: JCC. Enjoy an evening out with dancing, schmoozing with friends, swing dance lessons, games and a babysitter you can trust. Hors d'oeuvres and wine are also part of the celebration. Food is included and babysitting provided by the JCC Early Childhood Center staff. Dance lessons and music will be provided by dance teacher extraordinaire Susan Filipiak, proprietor of Swing City Dance Studio. $50/couple. For more information or to register, contact Peretz Hirshbein at peretzhirshbein@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 6–8 p.m.

Israeli Film and Falafel Night: JCC. Enjoy the company of fellow film lovers with a hearty falafel dinner and award-winning Israeli film. $10/JCC members; $15/non-members. For more information or to RSVP, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 3

Adult Education: JCS. Schmoozing and learning, hosted by Jewish Cultural Society Board of Directors. For more information, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 10 a.m.–Noon.

World Wide Wrap: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Gan Katan: BIC. Preschool at 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Women's Self Defense Workshop: JCC. Self defense is an approach to martial arts that combines the best of internal and external energy and strength conditioning. This class will help students who want to learn how to be fit for everyday life, while learning to deal with difficult circumstances that may appear. Classes are led by Mark Marshall, who holds a black belt rank in Tae Kwon Do and Grand Master in Kyusho Jitsu, and Peter K. Gluck, PhD, who holds black belt rank in Chung Do Kwan Do, Kyusho Jujitsu and Kiai Jitsu. $20/JCC members; $30/non-members. RSVP to Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Super Bowl Party: BIC Men's Club. 6 p.m.

Monday 4

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Women's Torah Study with Cantor Rose: TBE. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7–8 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. For information or to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 5

Living with Integrity–Navigating Everyday Ethical Dilemmas: Chabad. Are you obliged to keep all commitments? What are the responsibilities of the sandwich generation? Are the ungracious undeserving of our charity? How far should we go to give the benefit of the doubt? Join in on a discussion on personal ethics and the Jewish view on laws that test the limits of our integrity. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session.11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Games and activities including Mahjong, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

OSHER Class: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Participants will learn about investing methods and how to minimize risks. This multi-session class will cover new asset allocation methods, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETF's annuities, real estate, and other assets. Learn how to deal with today's low interest rate and potential high inflation later. Retirement tax considerations will also be discussed. George Levy, PhD, invests as a hobby and studies investing strategies. He is not a registered investment advisor, nor will he try to sell any investments or services. The class will also include lectures by Bob Shaw. $40 to be paid directly to OLLI. Visit www.olli-umich.org for more information or to register. 3-4:30 p.m. *Tuesdays through April 3.*

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Evening book club session focusing on fourth book of the year, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, by Karen Armstrong. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

JFS+YOU=HOPE

In 2012 alone, over 4000* lives were impacted by Older Adult Services, Counseling, Employment Services, ESL, Resettlement, and other critical services.

*2,453 cases

With your help, JFS is able to continue to serve those in the community without any reduction in staff or programs and services.

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OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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SAVE the DATE
April 21, 2013
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

CONSTELLATION JFS
Celebrating
Jewish Family Services:
20 years
serving the community!

Presenting sponsor:
Bank of Ann Arbor helps

Event Location:
University of Michigan
North Campus Research Facility

Contact Cindy Klein
734-769-0209
cindyk@jfsannarbor.org

Topics in Jewish Law: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan. Led by Rabbi Rod Glogower at the Lewis/Bernstein home, 1304 Cambridge. This semester's exploration will focus on the relationship between science and halakah, the commandments of the Torah, in light of rational inquiry and investigation, termed by middle ages rabbis as the relationship between revelation and reason. 8–9:15 p.m.

Wednesday 6

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Noon

"Mapping Out Sacred Space: Rembrandt and the Second Temple": Frankel Center. Presented by Shelley Perlove of the University of Michigan. 202 South Thayer Street. 4 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30p.m.

Thursday 7

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Lunchtime book club session focusing on fourth book of the year, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life,* by Karen Armstrong. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. Noon–1 p.m.

"Writing to the Sultan: Jews Petitioning the State in Nineteenth Century Morocco:" Frankel Center. Presented by Frankel Fellow Jessica Marglin. 202 South Thayer Street. Noon.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with February birthdays. Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. Ilan Ofir, University of Michigan Israel Fellow at Hallal, will present "The Israeli Elections and Experiences Growing Up in Israel," at 1 p.m.

Ask Big Questions Series: EMU Hillel. Hillel at Eastern Michigan University invites students and community members to participate in the inaugural session of a new initiative that has been very successful on college campuses across the county. The series aims to cultivate dialogue across ethnic, cultural, and political lines around questions relevant to all of us. This month's question is "For Whom Are We Responsible?" Kosher refreshments will be provided. For more information, email program@emuhillel.org. EMU Student Center Ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

Traditions and Change: How Our Movement's Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law: BIC. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 8

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Feel free to bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shalom Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Pulpit switch with St. Clare's Church at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 9

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Services: BIC. Henry Gershowitz Memorial Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. 6th Grade Shabbat Morning Program at 9:30 a.m. Kehillat Shabbat for 3rd through 5th Grade at 11 a.m. Mini Minyan for K–2nd Grade at 11:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat at 11:15 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Havdalah Pajama Party: JCC ECC. For current members of the JCC's Early Childhood Center, the Havdalah Pajama Party will include a pizza dinner, a Havdalah service, pillowcase making, storytelling and an evening snack. For more information or to register, contact Peretz Hirshbein at peretzhirshbein@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. $5 per person. 6 p.m.

Melave Malka Series: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan. Winter evening presentations, after Shabbat ends, followed by socializing over food like kosher soup, muffins and drinks. Tonight's topic is "Jewish Influences on My Musical Composition," presented by Professor Paul Schoenfeld, of the University of Michigan School of Music. 8 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 10

Pulpit Switch: TBE. St. Clare's Church switch with Temple Beth Emeth at TBE. 9–10 a.m.

Community Connections: BIC. An Intergenerational Day of Learning and Action. Women's League. 9:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 11

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. For information or to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

"There's No Such thing as a Small Mitzvah:" BIC. Presented by Danny Siegel. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 12

Living with Integrity–Navigating Everyday Ethical Dilemmas: Chabad. Are you obliged to keep all commitments? What are the responsibilities of the sandwich generation? Are the ungracious undeserving of our charity? How far should we go to give the benefit of the doubt? Join in on a discussion on personal ethics and the Jewish view on laws that test the limits of our integrity. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session.11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Games and activities including Mahjong, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.

"The Jewish Presence on Detroit's Chene Street:" Frankel Center. Presented by Marian Krzyzowski, Director of the Institute on Labor, Employment, and the Economy. 202 South Thayer Street. 4 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Topics in Jewish Law: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan. Led by Rabbi Rod Glogower at the Lewis/Bernstein home, 1304 Cambridge. This semester's exploration will focus on the relationship between science and halakah, the commandments of the Torah, in light of rational inquiry and investigation, termed by middle ages rabbis as the relationship between revelation and reason. 8–9:15 p.m.

Wednesday 13

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Noon.

Jewish Food Book Club: TBE. Rabbi Lisa Delson and Robin Little lead a discussion on *Kosher Nation* by Sue Fishkoff. 6–7 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Twice monthly evening of learning. Refreshments served. For information, contact Roger Stutesman at rogerstutesman8707@comcast.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 14

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will provide free blood pressure checks at 12:30 p.m. Followed by "Meet the Director!" Enjoy a magic performance and sing-a-long with new Executive Director Jeff Baden at 1 p.m.

Traditions and Change: How Our Movement's Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law: BIC. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 15

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service with Kol Halev at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 16

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 .m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Learner's Service: AARC. Sixth of ten monthly sessions led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia with interactive discussions on Jewish historical, geographical and political traditions. In this session, participants will begin to construct an interactive timeline that will represent the individuals and groups that contributed to the siddur. Visit aarecon.org or phone 445-1910 for more information. At the JCC. 10 a.m.–noon.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 17

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 18

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Women's Torah Study with Cantor Rose: TBE. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7–8 p.m.

Tuesday 19

Living with Integrity–Navigating Everyday Ethical Dilemmas: Chabad. Are you obliged to keep all commitments? What are the responsibilities of the sandwich generation? Are the ungracious undeserving of our charity? How far should we go to give the benefit of the doubt? Join in on a discussion on personal ethics and the Jewish view on laws that test the limits of our integrity. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

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Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan. Led by Rabbi Rod Glogower at the Lewis/Bernstein home, 1304 Cambridge. This semester's exploration will focus on the relationship between science and halakah, the commandments of the Torah, in light of rational inquiry and investigation, termed by middle ages rabbis as the relationship between revelation and reason. 8–9:15 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 20

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30p.m.

cinetopia
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
BEST OF THE FEST 2012

Please join us for these encore screenings featuring the award winners from our 2012 Cinetopia International Film Festival.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 4:30 PM
HIPSTERS (2008)
A lavish, candy-colored musical set in Cold War Russia circa 1955, *Hipsters* tells the story of a communist party youth whose life is changed when he encounters Moscow's vibrant underground and the non-conformist kids who inhabit it. *IndieWIRE* says "Imagine Baz Luhrmann on borscht." *130 minutes. Not rated. Russian with subtitles.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 4:30 PM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 6:00 PM
I AM NOT A HIPSTER (2012)
Grieving his mother's death, Brook has become a clichéd tortured artist, but his isolation is lifted when his sisters and estranged father come to spread his mother's ashes. This emotionally-rich portrait of a man in pain celebrates the healing power of family love. *90 minutes. Not rated.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 3:30 PM
MISSED CONNECTIONS (2012)
A comedic romance with a unique and hilarious take on Internet dating. When Neal's girlfriend moves out, his friends try to lift his spirits by using Craigslist to find him some potential dates, with surprising and heartfelt results. Made on a shoestring budget of $25K and funded partially by a Kickstarter campaign, this is the type of film you go to film festivals to see. *81 minutes. Not rated.*

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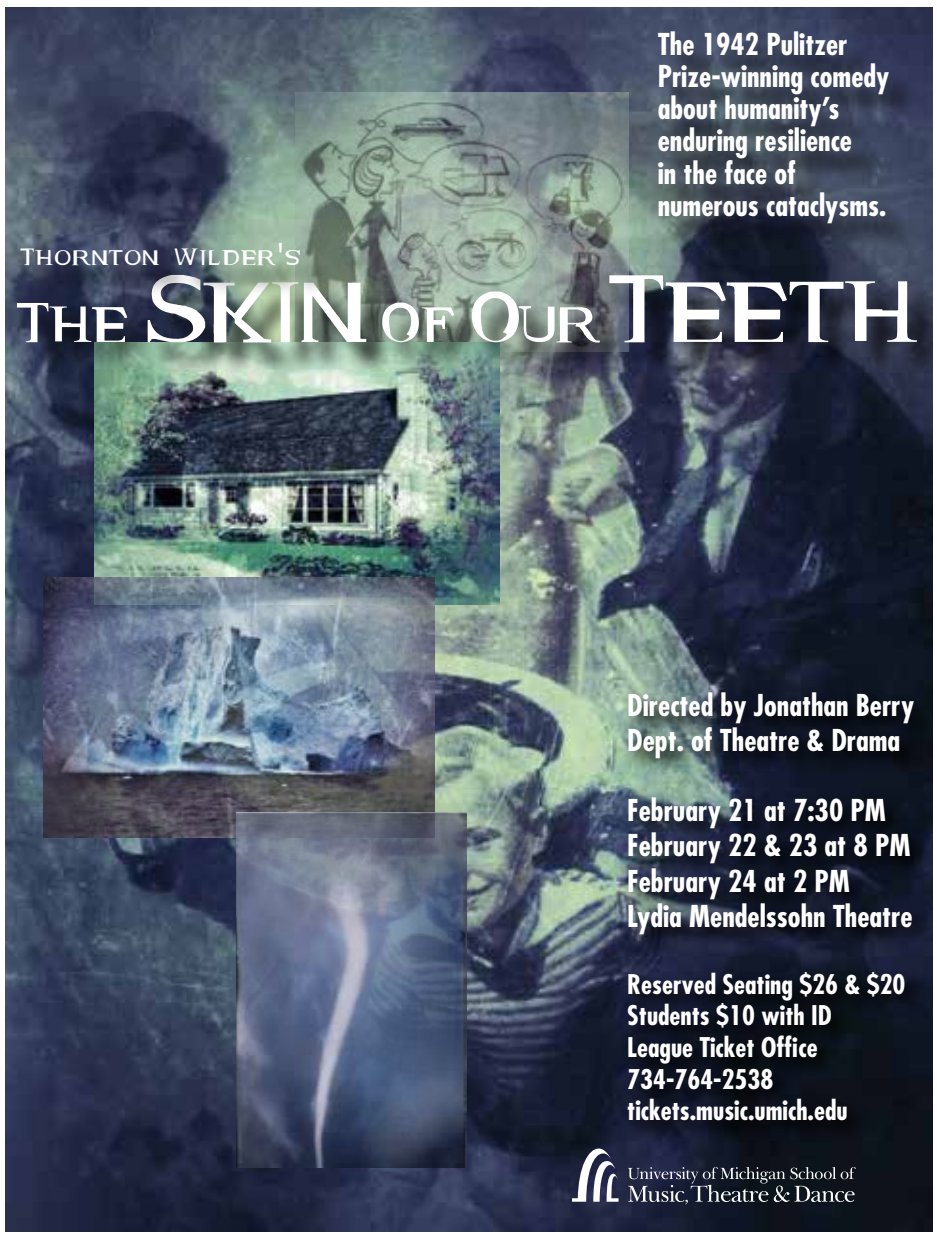

Calendar

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Twice monthly evening of learning. Refreshments served. For information, contact Roger Stutesman at rogerstutesman8707@comcast.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 21

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

"Shifting Geographies of Antisemitism: Thomas of Monmouth's Life and Miracles of St. William of Norwich:" Frankel Center. Presented by Frankel Fellow Kathryn Lavezzo. 202 South Thayer Street. Noon.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Timothy Webb, who is husband of SPICE Program coordinator Jessica Webb, will discuss his archaeological work in Pompeii in his presentation, "Pompeii Through the Ages." 1 p.m.

Traditions and Change: How Our Movement's Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law: BIC. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 22

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Birthday and Anniversary Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday Shabbat Service: AARC. Musical Kabbalat Shabbat services held at the JCC and open to all. Led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia. Services followed by vegetarian potluck dinner. Pizza nosh for children before services from 6 p.m. Childcare provided during services from 6:15–7:30 p.m. Reservations for children preferred, especially for pizza and childcare. Contact Jennifer Cohen at www.aarecon.org/contact-us or phone 445-1910. 6–10 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 23

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Kol Halev Dinner and Movie: TBE. 5–8 p.m.

Grand Gala Purim Celebration: Chabad. Join in on the fun with a Megillah reading, gragars, Purim Shpil, dancing, **singing, food and drinks, plus Hamantashen, door prizes and raffles. 7:15 p.m.**

A Charlie Brown Purim: BIC. Havdallah/Maariv at 7:15 p.m. Megillah Reading and Program at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 24

Purim Services: Chabad. Services with Megillah reading. 9 a.m.

Purim Shaharit and Megillah Reading: BIC. 9 a.m.

Purim Celebration: JCS. Games, crafts and prizes, plus Hamentaschen, pizza and drinks for sale. Costumes are encouraged. 10:30 a.m.–noon.

Cirque du Beth Israel: BIC. A Purim celebration featuring Cirque Amongus. Noon.

Purim Program: Chabad. Full course meal and program for adults and children with the reading of the Megillah. At the JCC. 5:30 p.m.

Monday 25

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Beit Café: TBE. For more information or to register, contct Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 26

Living with Integrity–Navigating Everyday Ethical Dilemmas: Chabad. Are you obliged to keep all commitments? What are the responsibilities of the sandwich generation? Are the ungracious undeserving of our charity? How far should we go to give the benefit of the doubt? Join in on a discussion on personal ethics and the Jewish view on laws that test the limits of our integrity. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session.11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Games and activities including Mahjong, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.

"Off the Beaten Track: America in Hebrew Literature at the Turn of the 20th Century:" Frankel Center. Presented by Matan Hermoni, Hebrew Publishing Company author. 202 South Thayer Street. 4 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Topics in Jewish Law: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan. Led by Rabbi Rod Glogower at the Lewis/Bernstein home, 1304 Cambridge. This semester's exploration will focus on the relationship between science and halakah, the commandments of the Torah, in light of rational inquiry and investigation, termed by middle ages rabbis as the relationship between revelation and reason. 8–9:15 p.m.

Wednesday 27

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

"Reconstructing an Imaginary Yiddish Past Through Tel Avivian Eyes:" Frankel Center. Presented by Matan Hermoni, Hebrew Publishing Company author. 202 South Thayer Street. 4 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Twice monthly evening of learning. Refreshments served. For information, contact Roger Stutesman at rogerstutesman8707@comcast.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 28

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Featuring Paul Saginaw, co-founder of local landmark restaurant Zingerman's, who will present, "In the Beginning All We Wanted was a Really Good Corned Beef Sandwich." 1 p.m.

Traditions and Change: How Our Movement's Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law: BIC. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Sukkat Shalom service at 6:30 p.m. for "tot grads," preceded by dinner. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Oneg for Tot and Sukkat Shalom families at 7 p.m. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6:00 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Congregation. Learners' Service held first or second Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Discussion-based format with changing topics, focusing on historical, geographical, and political traditions of different parts of traditional service each month. Regular morning service generally held on the second or third Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Traditionally-based, with music plus a lengthy Torah discussion. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

February 1	5:27 pm
February 8	5:36 pm
February 15	5:45 pm
February 22	5:54 pm

Vitals

Mazal Tov

Ethan and Noah Stancroff, on their b'nai mitzvah, February 2.
Harry and Leila Bagenstos on their b'nai mitzvah, February 9.
Gavi Forman on her bat mitzvah, February 16.
Steve Leber and Dina Shtull on the birth of their granddaughter, Nitzan Adira Helfand, daughter of Ilanit and Alex Helfand.
Haran Rashes on his marriage to Nikki Fitlow.
Deborah Dash Moore for receiving the *National Jewish Book Award* for her work *Gender & Jewish History* (Indiana University Press, 2011).

Condolences

Katherine Glassner-Shwayder on the death of her father, William Glassner, November 10.
Cathy Bowerman on the death of her mother, Dorothy S. Rogers, November 17.
Harvey Falit on the death of his father, Jack Falit, November 22.
Laura Wallace on the death of her father, John Wallace, November 23.
Steve Schiff on the death of his father, Samuel Schiff, November 28.
Bobbie Levine on the death of her husband, Myron Levine, November 29.
Ruth Wade on the death of her mother, Eve Berman, December 1.
Rick Swartz on the death of his mother, Clarine Swartz, December 2.
Rochel Urist on the death of her father, Rabbi Abraham Feldbin, December 2.
The family of Shirley Norton on her death, December 5.
Ajit K. Saini on the death of his wife and Ravi Saini on the death of her mother, Gayle Sweetwine Saini, December 9.
Brad Beaver on the death of his father, Harvey Beaver, December 14.
Harvey Somers on the death of his mother, Doris Somers, December 15.
Lana Neimeth on the death of her mother, Pauline Brotman, December 28.
The family of Lia Kushner on her death, December 29.
Barbara Mintz on the death of her mother, Mildred Greenley, December 31.
Barbara Mintz and Phyllis Greenley and the death of their mother-in-law, Mildred Greenley, December 31.
Cindy Frey on the death of her mother, Hilda Diogenes, January 1.
David Ginsburg on the death of his mother, Ruth Ginsburg, January 1.
Marcy Waldinger on the death of her mother, Ada Bohm, January 2.
Dan Levin on the death of his father, Morris Levin.

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